No. 1091
17 October –
30 October 2003
£1.30

PRIVATE EYE

IDS PLOT DRAMA

'JESUS AND EVEL KNIEVEL DON'T CONSORT TOO WELL IN ONE PSYCHE.' *

AN AUTHORITATIVE ALTERNATIVE to the voices of unilateralism, gung-ho intervention, sanctimony and bellicosity can be found in the pages of *The New York Review of Books*. Its title may be misleading. It might cause you to expect, reasonably enough, a highbrow 'good book guide'. You might also infer a particular New York perspective or, to be blunt, self-regarding Manhattan intellectualism. (Who could blame you?) In fact, the *Review* is where you'll find:

UNBLINKING SCRUTINY OF THE BUSH REGIME, AND THE THREAT IT POSES: JOSEPH LELYVELD on the detention site at Guantanamo Bay ('Delta was thrown together for $9.7 million by a private contractor, Brown & Root Services—a division of President Cheney's old company, Halliburton...The cell blocks are assembled from the standard forty-foot steel boxes called connex containers that are used in international shipping...Floor-level toilets were installed—the kind requiring squatting, traditionally described as *á la turque*—and now these are sometimes mentioned as an example of American sensitivity to the cultural needs of the detainees.'); **JOAN DIDION** on the erosion of the boundaries between politics and religion in 'God's Country' (that's America, by the way); **NORMAN MAILER** (*) on his anxieties about the mentality of Bush and his entourage.

DISCUSSION OF THE ARTS FROM BACH TO BACHARACH; OF SCIENCE, HISTORY AND ECONOMICS; REPORTING FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD—AND (YES) WRITING ABOUT BOOKS, AND THE IDEAS THAT ILLUMINATE THEM ('I have never seen such a high standard of reviewing,' said Kenneth Clark). Longstanding contributors include: **JOHN UPDIKE • ALFRED BRENDEL • JONATHAN MILLER J. M. COETZEE • HILARY MANTEL • V. S. NAIPAUL • SIMON SCHAMA • JOHN BANVILLE • JANET MALCOLM • UMBERTO ECO • OLIVER SACKS • TIMOTHY GARTON ASH • GORE VIDAL • JULIAN BARNES • RICHARD HOLMES • NEAL ASCHERSON • JAMES FENTON.**

INTRODUCTORY SUBSCRIPTION OFFER: Try the *Review* today, and you will get:

- **A FREE BOOK:** *Fixed Ideas: America since 9.11* by Joan Didion 'For readers looking for an antidote to our post-9/11 shrink-wrapped sanctimony, or for confirmation of their worst fears about America's real role in the world, *Fixed Ideas* will serve nicely.' —*San Diego Union-Tribune*
- **A TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION AT 45% OFF:** A year's subscription of 20 issues for just £39—45% off the newsstand price.
- **A REFUND GUARANTEE:** You can cancel the subscription at any time, and will receive a refund for the un-sent issues.

The New York Review of Books

* *Norman Mailer*

Cartoons of Bush, John Updike and Gore Vidal by David Levine.

❍ YES: Please start my introductory one-year (20 issues) trial subscription to *The New York Review of Books* for £39. I save 45% off the newsstand price, and will receive *Fixed Ideas* FREE. I can cancel at any time, for any reason, and will be refunded for the un-sent issues. My name, address, city, postcode and country are:

_____

_____

NS03KPED0

Payment details *: ❍ Cheque, enclosed (payable to 'NYREV, Inc'). Or: ❍ Charge my AmEx/Visa/Mastercard:

Card no: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ Expires: __ __ / __ __

Signed and dated: _____

* **RATES OUTSIDE UK/EUROPE:** The £39 price includes postage in UK/Europe. Canada: £52/$73CDN. US: $62. Rest of the World: £58/$89 (airmail). **PAYMENT METHODS/CURRENCY:** We accept £ cheques drawn on a UK bank, US$ checks drawn on a US bank, and CND$ drawn on a Canadian bank. Creditcard orders will be billed in US$. **DATA PROTECTION:** Your details will not be made available to third parties.

RETURN DETAILS: ✉ Post to: The New York Review of Books, Freepost CB390, 2/3 Hanover Yard, Noel Road, London N1 8BR (if outside the UK, please omit 'Freepost CB390'). Or tel: +44 (0)20 7288 2222, fax: +44 (0)20 7704 0474. **THIS OFFER EXPIRES 31 DEC 2003.**

Gnome

WELCOME on board to our new editor of the Daily Gnomegraph, Mr Martin Newboy, who has previously distinguished himself as night editor of the prestigious Saskatchewan Clarion and Argos (Motto: *"Have we got moose for you"*). He takes over from today, bringing his own unique qualities including a hard-nosed attitude to news and a brown-nosed attitude to myself.

Newlad demonstrates on his very first day the strength of his editorial vision and his firm grasp of the world situation as it breaks.

What you will see in today's soaraway *Daily Gnomegraph*:

- Page one: Peace comes to Iraq as bomb goes off.
- Page two: Why everyone is backing IDS.
- Pages three to ninety-four: Pieces by the proprietor's wife attacking Arafat, BBC, etc, etc.

I wish you well, Mr Newbloke, and suggest you remember the old newspaper edict "Moore Means The Sack".

Lord Conrad Gnome
The Daily Gnomegraph

"You've won the Nobel War Prize"

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020 7437 4017.
Fax: 020 7437 0705. **Email:** strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

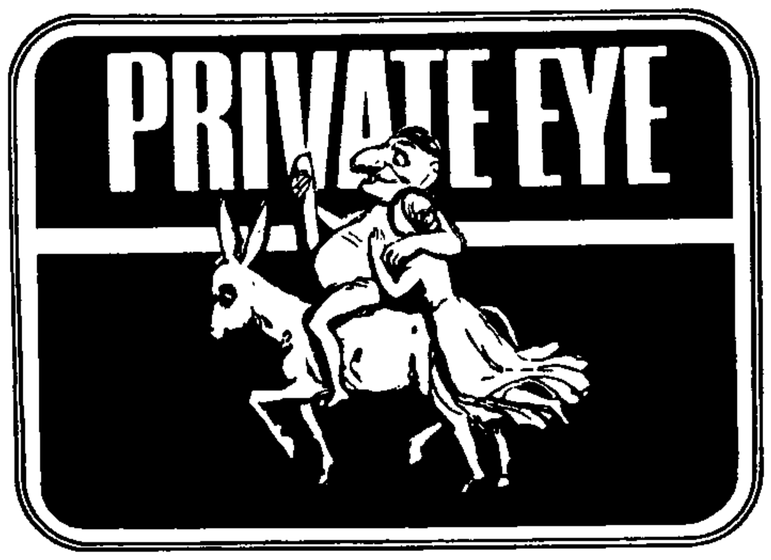
PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714
Fax: 01795 414 555. Overseas: 01795 414 871
Special Reports: 0870 750 1711 **Books:** 0870 750 1712
Email: private-eye@galleon.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
£21 per annum. Europe and Eire £29. Airmail (rest of world) £35. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

ADVERTISING
Display: 020 7878 2303 Classified: 020 7240 9129

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ . **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC



Hits and Missus...

- **Was it all cock, Robin? Cook Report** 5
- **A word from Labour's sponsors** 6
- **Old habits, Young Tories** 7
- **Abbey rational? Ad Nauseam** 9
- **Liddle and often: Books** 24, 25
- **Hunting for Dame Shirley's millions** 26

MORE bad news for Jarvis, which is pulling out of its rail maintenance contracts and handing the work back to the "renationalised" Network Rail.

No sooner had the announcement been made than it was revealed that the firm had failed to be shortlisted for any of the 12 NHS health centre contracts for which it was bidding. In addition, the signing of a £92m schools PFI deal in Norfolk, which was due last week, has been postponed pending an investigation into the "deliverability" of the Jarvis plan.

However, one money-spinner Jarvis is likely to hold on to is the contract for track renewal around Potters Bar. The announcement from Network Rail that the firm was preferred bidder for the work in the London north-eastern region Hertfordshire was greeted with dismay by families of those who died in the rail crash there in May 2002 which killed seven people and injured many more.

The most recent health and safety executive (HSE) update on the investigation of the Potters Bar crash highlights maintenance problems, although Jarvis has maintained its "sabotage" conspiracy theory. Other safety problems include two passengers injured by flying maintenance debris while standing on the platform at Milton Keynes station and the derailment at King's Cross last month.

But why did Jarvis pull out of the rail maintenance contracts just weeks after telling shareholders how well things were going and in the same month that London mayoral candidate Steven Norris wrote proudly (if questionably) in his *Property Week* column that: "Jarvis has the best safety record in the industry"?

Could it be that the appointment of Elizabeth Filkin, former parliamentary standards commissioner, to the Jarvis board in August has instilled a new spirit of probity that has left the firm unable to continue to take the nation's money for such a shoddy job? It would be nice to think so.

IN HIS full-steam-ahead speech to the Labour party conference, Tony Blair left his audience in no doubt about his view of lawyers involved in the asylum system.

"We should cut back the ludicrously complicated appeal process, derail the gravy train of legal aid, fast-track those from democratic countries, and remove those who fail in their claims without further judicial interference," he declared.

His remarks drew instant condemnation from the Legal Aid Practitioners Group, which described the attack as "outrageous". Practitioners are, however, used to such abuse. Back in April the eminent QC and immigration specialist who judged the group's Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards was bemoaning such misconceptions: "Legal aid lawyers are maligned, underpaid and misunderstood," she told the audience. Her name? Cherie Booth, whose Matrix Chambers made a significant proportion of its £8.8m income last year from legal aid work, much of it in the field of asylum law and appeals against deportation under the human rights act.

DURING the glitzy Labour Friends of India reception in Bournemouth, deputy prime minister John Prescott let slip how British arms sales and purchases really work.

Prescott told the meeting how he had helped push the sale of BAE Hawk jets to India. "I had an official visit two or three months ago. I met that deputy prime minister, L.K. Advani. So I did a little business on the side. I said: 'You know that Hawk you're going to order... It's made in my constituency, you know. When will you buy it?' And he said: 'Well, when will *you* buy it?' And I thought: he's got a point you know."

In June, when Advani visited Prescott, his government had not yet signed up to the £1bn purchase of the jets, partly manufactured at the Brough works in east Yorkshire. At the same time, the RAF wanted to buy a new trainer plane and preferred the Aermacchi jet offered by Italy's Finmeccanica.

The Italian jet is almost half the price and a better plane than the ageing Hawk. Hence the Indians feared they would be lumbered with an ancient white elephant, with no commitment to upgrades if they bought the Hawk while Britain went Italian.

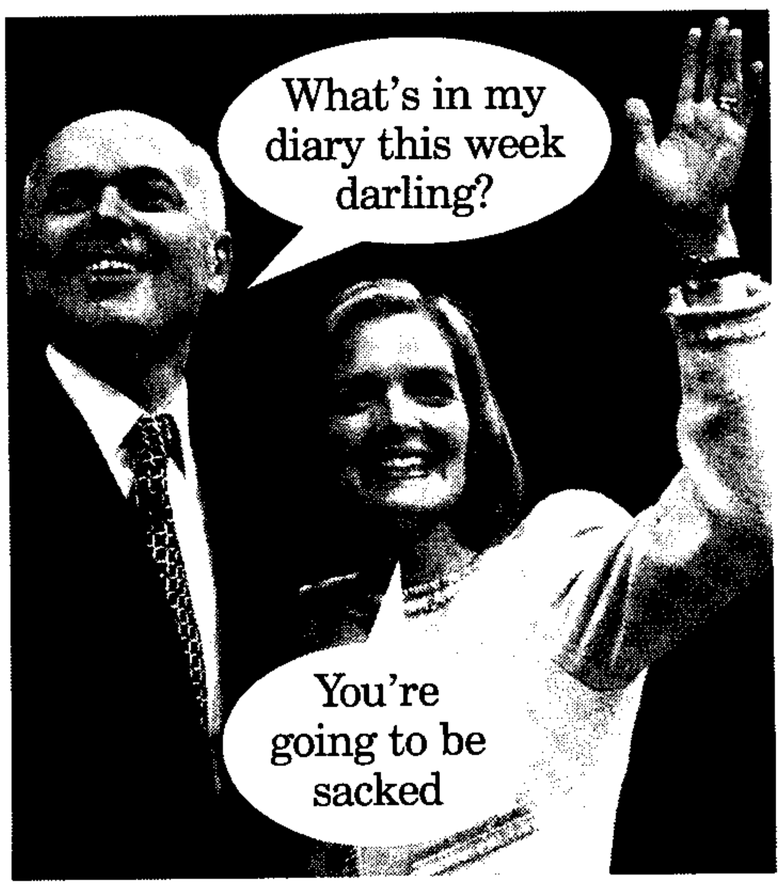
Shortly after Advani's visit the MoD did a u-turn and bought Hawks. And then India finally agreed to buy them too. By backing the sale of the Hawks, a "trainer" jet which can also be used for combat, Labour is supporting a £1bn addition to the India-Pakistan arms race. So thanks to Prescott's "little bit of business", India gets a jet it shouldn't have... while the RAF is lumbered with one it doesn't want.

THERE was something familiar about Tony Blair's Bournemouth conference speech: "Forward or back. I can only go one way. I've not got a reverse gear."

To some it was reminiscent of a certain lady who wasn't for turning; but there is another speech that will have been even more familiar perhaps to "new" Labourites. *Vide* the *Simpsons* episode in which aliens Kang and Kodos run for political office saying: "We must move forward, not backward! Upward, not forward! And always twirling, twirling, twirling toward freedom!"

Meanwhile with debate on Iraq off the agenda at the Labour party conference, the choice of music in the main hall raised some wry smiles. In the run up to the big speech, delegates were kept entertained with the updated version of Elvis's "A Little Less Coversation."

TORY IN SECRETARY SCANDAL



Street Of Shame

CHARLES Moore's first decision when he took charge of the *Daily Telegraph* eight years ago was to recruit the small but perfectly formed Sarah Sands as his deputy editor. Sands promptly sent him a "dream list" of hacks and pundits she wished to hire – headed by one Barbara Amiel.

Sure enough Lady Black has since become a regular *Telegraph* columnist, and when Moore decided to leave Barbara urged her husband to give the job to Sands. For once, however, Conrad declined to heed Amiel's advice.

If Sarah Sands wishes to complain about being overlooked she should take it up with the newly appointed editorial director of the Telegraph group, Kim Fletcher. She can be assured of a sympathetic audience, not least because Fletcher is her husband.

But how will she work with new editor Martin Newland? The omens are not good. "If I see one more picture of bikini-clad girls handing over a cheque, under the pretence that it is news, I'll be furious," he told the *Evening Standard* last Wednesday. "There has to be a story to go with it." The pioneer of this *Hurleygraph* style that he so despises was, of course, Sarah Sands.

The next day Sands's *Telegraph* column included a swipe at the arrogance of good-looking men. "Long ago, I lived with a beautiful boy during his blazing years. He took it for granted that women and men of all ages would fall in love with him… I have noticed that beautiful girls often exhibit an anxiety and insecurity, whereas boys are more prone to untroubled narcissism."

As Sands is surely aware, Martin Newland takes great pride in his appearance. A few months ago, Canadian hackette Christie Blatchford published this fond recollection of Newland's arrival as deputy editor of the *National Post* in Canada: "Have I mentioned that Martin is a gorgeous man?… I have a vivid memory of wondering if it would be possible to work with someone so physically beautiful. I shouldn't have worried…"

Meanwhile, someone in Toronto has sent Lord Gnome the wallpaper that appeared on Newland's computer at the *Post*. It shows the gorgeous hack disguised as the Virgin Queen. But why?

O·B·N

Sir – I cannot think of a better reason for you to relinquish your position as Editor of The Daily Telegraph than to write the authorised biography of Lady Thatcher.

The essential values cherished by your newspaper and those of Lady Thatcher are clearly very similar *(continues for 94 paragraphs)*.

Extremely long letter in *Daily Telegraph*

"NO ONE in soccer can now doubt that the once-great game is deep in crisis," declared the *Sun*'s editorial on 10 October. "Fans are sick of overpaid players who behave both on and off the field like violent, foul-mouthed, mindless louts… All players have a duty to behave responsibly and set a good example to the children who worship them and the fans who copy them."

Wise words – but ones that don't apply if it's foreigners who are getting bashed, judging by the paper's front page just three days later following the England/Turkey game. "England wonderkid Wayne Rooney THUMPED foul-mouthed Turk Alpay Ozalan to protect David Beckham, the *Sun* can reveal… Becks went after Alpay but it was Everton ace Rooney who put the yob in his place."

"Hold the front page"

WHAT do asylum seekers have to do to get sympathy from the *Sun*? Well, dying appears to be a good start.

Over the summer the paper ran a series of scathing pieces about "asylum cheats" prompted by the case of the Kurdish Ay family, who the appeal court ruled should not be returned to Turkey. "We won't let illegal immigrants blackmail us anymore," thundered an editorial on 26 August, accusing "slick lawyers" of making up stories of intimidation and persecution by the Turkish authorities as merely "a ploy to rouse our anxieties, play upon our emotions, and blackmail us".

On 13 October, however, after the Turkish nation had revealed itself to be inherently evil by poking David Beckham in the eye and saying something nasty about his mother, the *Sun* was full of sympathy for those fleeing the evil regime. The killing of Imam Ortac, an asylum seeker who was stabbed to death in London, was reported under the headline "Murdered: Dad who came here to be safe."

WHEN Paul Field left the *Mail on Sunday* this summer to become the *Sun*'s associate editor in charge of news, he may have innocently imagined his duties would be limited to producing a newspaper.

Not so. Last Friday he and other senior execs were despatched by Rebekah Wade to a caravan park near Exmouth to spend the weekend asking *Sun* readers what they thought of the paper. (Embarrassingly, the survey revealed that readers' favourite *Sun* columnist was… Garry Bushell, who in fact departed for the *Sunday People* two years ago.) He then had to escort the flame-haired editrix on to the dance floor at Capone's, the campsite's nightclub.

This is the price one pays for working at the *Sun*, as the hapless fellow is fast discovering. When he travelled to the Midlands recently for a getting-to-know-you evening with the paper's district reporters in the area, he booked a table at Raymond Blanc's agreeable restaurant in Birmingham, Le Petit Blanc – but the hacks dragged him off to a rough'n'ready curry house instead, where the fastidious Field (who has a severe peanut allergy) scarcely dared touch his dinner for fear of concealed nuts. Afterwards, Field had envisaged a nightcap or two at an upmarket cocktail bar, but once again the laddish *Sun* hacks had other plans. They frogmarched their boss to a lapdancing club – and bribed one of the dancers to shove her breasts in his face.

INSPIRED by the inclusion of poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning in the list of 100 Great Black Britons put together by Ken Livingstone (her family came from Jamaica and were part-Creole), the *Independent*'s Ian Burrell decided to recruit one of her contemporaries to the brotherhood as well.

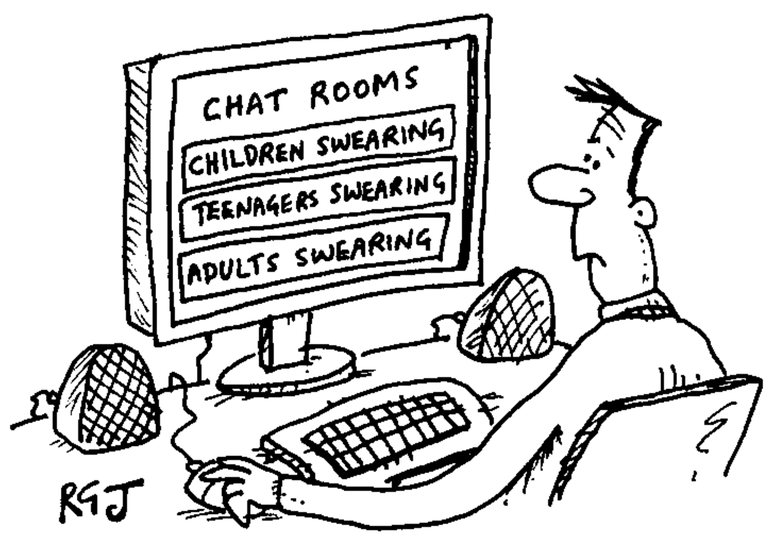
"Significant black populations have existed in Britain for 400 years and among those proposed for the top 100 are the 19th century poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the 18th century author and former slave Olaudah Equiano and the Chartist William Cuffay," he reported.

Unfortunately for Burrell, the paper's "Culture Correspondent", Samuel Taylor Coleridge was born in Devon and whiter than white. Samuel Coleridge Taylor, the composer who was named after him in 1875 and who went on to become a professor at Trinity College of Music, *was* black – and it was he who featured on the mayor's list.

THOSE who follow the columnar jottings of Damien McCrystal, the insatiably thirsty City diarist of the London *Evening Standard*, may have noticed his peculiar attachment to one restaurant in particular, the Boisdale, in Victoria.

What neither his readers nor the *Standard*'s managing editor could have known was that McCrystal frequently finds himself either unencumbered with instruments of credit or too discombobulated with drink to settle his bill. Instead, he signs for it and asks the restaurant to send it on to his newspaper.

Having accumulated several of these vouchers, the Boisdale recently forwarded a batch to the *Standard*'s managing editor – who was flabbergasted to learn that the bill came to well over £4,000. He has now written to McCrystal, agreeing to write a cheque just this once but refusing to honour any further debts. His letter also notes, without comment, that approximately 70 per cent of the £4,000 went on alcohol and tobacco.



"THE Barefoot Doctor is online on Tuesday to answer questions of healing and health. Safe to say, he isn't proving wildly popular and the questions are just a tad aggressive," reveals an internal memo to hacks at the *Observer* about the paper's alternative health columnist.

A quick glance at the website confirms the worst. "I notice ObserverTalk thinks you are an expert at 'coping with modern life'. My garden is covered with unsightly dead leaves. Pop round and sweep them up will you, there's a good chap," asks one reader.

"Can you please let me know when your contract with the *Observer* is over? Only I really like it as a paper and would like to start reading it again," asks another.

"Last year you wrote an article about the sensation of treading in dogshit while barefoot. Is this a feeling you want others to share when they read your column?" On and on it goes.

The memo implores *Observer* hacks to redress the balance: "If some of *you* could take time out to ask a rather more benign question, then you'll probably feel better for it."

***NEW Statesman* owner Geoffrey Robinson may be one of the wealthiest Labour MPs, but he didn't get where he is today through needless generosity – as the mag's deputy editor, gorgeous pouting Cristina Odone, has learned to her cost.**

Odone recently had a baby, and for the first six weeks of her absence from the *Stoadsperson* she received 90 percent of her salary, as the law dictates. But Robinson, as a former treasury minister, realised that for the subsequent 20 weeks of statutory maternity leave he could get away with paying her the legal minimum of £100 a week. And so, now that the six weeks are up, he is doing precisely that.

What would the *New Statesman* say about any other employer who behaved like this? An easy question to answer, as it happens. Last November, a survey by the Economic and Social Research Council prompted this furious *NS* tirade against the "inhumane" attitude of British bosses: "It reveals that most managers do as little as they can get away with in providing rights and benefits for their workers. Firms are particularly uninterested in meeting the needs of female staff with dependent children… Only 5 percent provide maternity pay above the minimum; and two-thirds offer no paid parental leave entitlements… It is hard not to conclude from this catalogue of meanness and myopia that the treatment of workers may help to explain why low productivity is such a serious problem in many companies."

The *New Statesman* argued that there was "a direct correlation between effective business performance and a more humane management of staff". Its benign socialist proprietor clearly thinks otherwise.

CONFUSION reigns at the supposedly clear-thinking *Economist*, a recent issue of which carried cover photos of Tony Blair and George W. Bush with the headline: "Wielders of mass deception?"

Its first leader, which bore the same headline, ended with the words: "Mr Bush and Mr Blair did not play straight with their people." But the second leader (about Blair), entitled "Bruised but bouncing back", then opined: "Nothing has emerged to suggest that Mr Blair's belief in the threat posed by Saddam Hussein was anything other than heartfelt… His sincerity should not be in question."

Shome inconshistency shurely?

THE *Guardian* declared itself mortally offended by Iain Duncan Smith's sideswipe at Charles Kennedy's drinking habits in its editorial column on 10 October. His conference speech, the paper declared, "was a disgrace… The predictable mockery of the Liberal Democrats was besmirched by a crude smear on Charles Kennedy of which the Tory leader should be roundly ashamed."

Sadly, it is not just IDS who resorts to such cheap laughs. During the Lib Dem conference a fortnight earlier, one sketchwriter had the temerity to refer to Kennedy as "our man in the Green Room with a bottle of Chilean Merlot", while in July one of his colleagues wrote of the Lib Dem leader "standing in the House of Commons objecting to the invasion of Iraq at the top of his whisky-loving lungs". Earlier in the year the diary column in the same paper referred to a lunch where "Charles Kennedy settled happily with a jeroboam of Glenlivet and his tartan-patterned intravenous drip".

Such moral decay must cause immense distress to *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger; but, alas, he seems powerless to stop such crude smears appearing in his own pages.

CORRECTION

Contrary to what was published in the last issue, the cartoonist Martha Richler (Marf) is *not* the god-daughter of Veronica Wadley, editor of the *Evening Standard*, and this was *not* the reason she was given the cartoon slot on the diary page. Our apologies.

COOKWATCH

Robin Reliant?

ACCORDING to Robin Cook, Tony Blair deliberately misled parliament and asked MPs to vote for war on a "false prospectus". Sensational stuff: it isn't every day that a PM is accused of lying by his former foreign secretary.

"Either Robin Cook's diaries are a work of fiction or he has dealt the death blow to Tony Blair's claim that the war on Iraq was lawful," the *Daily Mirror* opined. "It is pretty clear that the former foreign secretary has not written make-believe. There are too many details, too much of a ring of truth about his memoirs."

Yet many of Cookie's colleagues – including some who shared his opposition to the war – remain unconvinced by his posturing as Mr Valiant-for-Truth. They observe that the so-called diaries are actually a curious hybrid of contemporaneous notes and later additions written with the benefit of self-justifying hindsight. And they wonder if his sensational "revelations" – which mostly appear in the passages written since he signed a publishing contract – could by any chance be related to the £400,000 fee he received from Simon & Schuster and the *Sunday Times*.

By far the most damaging assertion in the book comes in Cook's description of a meeting with the Rev Blair on 5 March, a fortnight before the war started. "Tony did not try to argue me out of the view that Saddam did not have real weapons of mass destruction," he writes. "I have no reason to doubt that Tony Blair believed in September that Saddam really had weapons of mass destruction ready for firing within 45 minutes. What was clear from this conversation was that he did not believe it himself in March this year." Soon afterwards, however, Blair persuaded MPs to vote for war on the grounds that Saddam *did* have WMDs – even though he allegedly knew it was untrue. Cook says that this raises "the gravest of political questions".

Grave indeed. So presumably Mr Valiant-for-Truth alerted MPs and the speaker of the House of Commons to the fact that parliament was being wilfully misled?

Er, no. Cook's resignation speech on 17 March, less than a fortnight after the PM's supposedly damning confession and one day before the crucial Commons vote, began with an unalloyed tribute to Tony Blair: "I hope that he will continue to be the leader of our party, and I hope that he will continue to be successful. I have no sympathy with, and I will give no comfort to, those who want to use this crisis to displace him." If Cook's memoirs are truthful, he said this despite realising that Blair was about to risk the lives of British troops to tackle a threat that he knew to be non-existent. Why would such a stern moralist as Cookie wish to support such an immoral brute?

In the weeks and months that followed, Cook had plenty more opportunities to warn the nation that its leader was a mendacious maniac. On 17 June he gave evidence to the foreign affairs select committee, whose chairman asked whether the Iraqi threat had been "hyped up, sexed up, exaggerated for political purposes". "I actually have no doubt about the good faith of the prime minister and others engaged in this exercise," Cook said. "If anything, I think the problem was the burning sincerity and conviction of those who were involved in the exercise." He assured the committee that there had been no "deceit", no "invention".

"Do you think ministers misled the House, intentionally or otherwise?" another MP asked. To which Cook replied that although some of the facts put to the House in speeches or dossiers may have subsequently turned out to be inaccurate, "that does not mean to say that the ministers at the time did not genuinely believe what they were saying, even if they have turned out since to have been in error". Now he claims just the opposite.

During his session with the select committee, Cook was also asked whether other ministers shared his misgivings. "No, members of the Cabinet did not express anxiety about the drift to military action," he revealed. "I would regularly comment on it. Clare [Short] would sometimes join in those discussions… Other than that I do not recall anybody."

Later, under questioning from Andrew Mackinlay MP, Cookie again insisted that he and Clare Short had been the only dissenters. "There was no great debate in the sense of people disagreeing with the prime minister's perspective… It would be perfectly reasonable for the prime minister to conclude that the sense of the cabinet was with him because, apart from myself and occasionally Clare, nobody disagreed with that."

Or did they? In his memoirs, Cook now sets out to show that *everybody* disagreed with Blair. At a cabinet meeting on 28 February 2002 Cook warns that military action in Iraq would turn the whole Arab world against Britain – and "somewhat to my surprise this line provokes a round of 'hear-hearing' from colleagues, which is the nearest I've heard to a mutiny in cabinet." A week later, he describes "a real discussion at cabinet. Tony permitted us to have the debate on Iraq which David [Blunkett] and I had asked for. For the first time I can recall in five years, Tony was out on a limb." Blunkett argued that war would be illegal; Patricia Hewitt complained that the British government was becoming President Bush's poodle.

As Cook concludes: "In the old days prime ministers would sum up the balance of view in the discussion. This would be simple in the present case as all contributions pointed in one direction. However, Tony does not regard the cabinet as a place for decisions… Tony appeared totally unfazed at the fact that on this occasion the balance of discussion pointed strongly in the reverse direction of his intentions."

So which is the true account – the one offered, free of charge, to his fellow MPs, or the one sold to Simon & Schuster and the *Sunday Times*? Does Cookie have "no doubt about the good faith of the prime minister" – or does he believe that Blair "misled parliament" by "asking the Commons to vote for war on a false prospectus"? That is the £400,000 question. It isn't too late for Lord Hutton to summon the bearded gnome and demand an answer.

NANNY STATE

SAFETY planners are already preparing for Christmas and a host of potential hazards.

According to the BUPA Care Services Health and Safety Manual: "To ensure that Christmas passes safely, a risk Assessment (HS .F13) must be carried out for the erection/removal of Christmas trees and decorations."

Not only that but a "manual handling risk assessment must be carried out on the handling of 'large' trees. Please note that appropriate gloves and eye protection should be worn when handling the tree… For working at height, please ensure you carry out a risk assessment… Guidance is available in the Working at Height Policy HS.45…"

NO great surprise to see the resignation of CAFCASS chairman Anthony Hewson, who was left holding the reins of the troubled family court service as minister after minister failed to sort out the mess (*Eyes passim ad nauseam*).

Alan Beith, chair of the Commons constitutional affairs committee (CAC), responded to Hewson's departure saying he had been asked to do the job "on an impossible timetable with inadequate resources".

A year ago Lord Irvine promised that he was "very much on the case" in sorting out the service. But on last month the *Eye* reported on how thousands of vulnerable children were having to wait up to 12 weeks before being allocated a court guardian, compared with a 24-hour allocation before CAFCASS was created.

Meanwhile the CAC, which hopes Hewson's departure will highlight issues surrounding the failing service, will introduce a Commons debate on a fundamental review of the membership of its board.

THE public services productivity panel is one of "new" Labour's most important quangos.

It advises the government how to improve public services. So an obvious appointment when it was set up three years ago was David Triesman, the former left-wing subversive at Essex university who turned into a tame trade union leader and new Labour favourite.

Triesman was appointed to the panel in 2000 and attended a panel meeting on December 10, 2001. But by then he had been promoted to a highly important position elsewhere. As the treasury website noted, the panel members included one David Triesman – who was proudly described as "general secretary of the Labour party".

Whoops! No one seems to have read the conditions of membership of the public service panel, which insist that panel members must "not hold any paid or high profile unpaid posts in a political party". The Liberal Democrats, who are not represented on the panel, wanted to know why and for how long Triesman had been breaking the rules set by his own government.

The most elementary information was hard to prise from the government. On 9 January, 31 January and 28 February, for instance, Matthew Taylor MP, Liberal democrat frontbench spokesman, asked for a list of the people who had attended the panel meetings. The government, in the shape of arch-toady Paul Boateng, refused to disclose the information. Giving it out, he said, was "not usual practice".

It was only when the Liberal Democrats complained to the parliamentary ombudsman that the government finally conceded – and released the news that Mr Triesman had been a member of the panel right up until September 2002. For more than a year, in other words, he had been general secretary of the Labour Party and therefore, by the panel's own rules, unfit for membership.

ONE of the less loony ideas to come out of this year's Lib Dem conference was the replacement of the council tax by local income tax.

A campaign to "scrap the council tax" was duly launched and put in the hands of the party's "economics guru", Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey. On 3 October he launched a "scrap council tax" page on his website, complete with a box in which people could post their opinions and vote for or against the idea.

By 6 October, things were not looking too good for the campaign. Of 2,447 votes cast, just 12 agreed that "council tax should be scrapped and replaced by a local income tax", leaving some 2,435 against the idea – statistically 100 percent. Smelling a rat, Lib Dem anoraks investigated and discovered that nearly all the "No" votes had been cast by a small group of hackers over a very short period. It was noted that both the internet café and the bars at the Conservative party conference had opened at about the same time. Posted rants about Davey being a "socialist" also pointed to the source of the manipulation.

He called for a "massive and irreversible shit of power to working people, a framework of free universal welfare services controlled by the people who use them."

Socialist Worker

Labour's Core-porate Values

WHILE hacks hunted for but failed to find an anti-Blair rebellion at the Labour conference, they missed a different, more powerful caucus: the corporate posse of company directors, sidling up to ministers and lecturing delegates at every opportunity. Highlights included:

■ HILARY BENN's tolerance for multinationals helped his rapid promotion to cabinet. As the *Eye* reported, Benn was booked to speak for the Foreign Policy Centre on "Africa: Are we doing enough?" sponsored by Nestlé. At the meeting, Nestlé's own Herbert Oberhaensli sat on the platform with Benn.

Nestlé's famous contribution to Africa is promoting baby milk where clean water is unavailable. As Nestlé's head of economic & international relations, Mr Oberhaensli is also personally responsible for lobbying at the World Trade Organisation, where he demands lower subsidies and less protection of farmers in the developing world. Instead of challenging Nestlé's man, Benn smiled as he claimed they did a lot for Africa because Nestlé "train people to work in our factories".

■ EMPLOYMENT minister Ivan Lewis was star speaker at a McDonalds meeting chaired by former agriculture minister Nick Brown. The meeting heard a long eulogy to the burger maker from Andy Westwood, an academic from the Work Foundation and author of a report into "service industries" which was itself paid for by… McDonalds.

Julian Hilton-Johnson, McDonalds' UK vice president and general counsel, agreed that anyone arguing McJobs are low-paid, low-skilled and low-status were just "job snobs". He also called for "a closer relationship between schools and McDonalds" so employers "could have a greater role in education". A bemused Ivan Lewis was driven to say: "I feel as if I have been unwittingly involved in a McDonalds' marketing campaign for the last 20 minutes."

■ TESCO had a powerful presence. The Labour party's own reception for constituency delegates at the Highcliffe Hotel, addressed by Ian McCartney and Labour general-secretary David Triesman, was sponsored by the supermarket. Tesco also paid for a meeting on "Food Farming and Rural Communities" with rural affairs minister Alun Michael on the platform and Labour's Lord Haskins in the chair.

Tesco's government affairs director David North – a former private secretary to Tony Blair dealing with rural affairs – told the meeting his employer was very good for the countryside because it allowed one or two farmers' markets in Tesco car parks. The minister did not raise the issue of the miserable prices paid by supermarkets to farmers (or the high prices charged to consumers). No one representing farmers or agricultural workers was invited on to the platform to say otherwise.

■ TRADE MINISTER Stephen Timms spoke about "corporate social responsibility" for Cadbury Schweppes, alongside the firm's PR man, Neil Makin. Earlier this year Cadbury's grotesque scheme to give school sports kits in return for massive chocolate consumption by schoolkids caused a furore.

■ BIG COMPANIES are clearly worried about Labour's environmental regulations, as a host of polluters rushed to embrace ministers and lecture delegates. Peter Mandelson spoke about "green" issues on a platform sponsored by German-owned power firm Innogy. It has been lobbying hard to get the government to lift its limitations on CO_2 "greenhouse" emissions.

■ ERIC JOYCE, a parliamentary private secretary in the foreign office and one of Tony Blair's staunchest defenders over the Hutton affair, addressed a Fabian meeting called "What role for business in politics?" sponsored by Wessex Water. The firm's immensely patronising finance director Keith Harris told delegates that "business is willing to take on a wider social agenda, but government isn't".

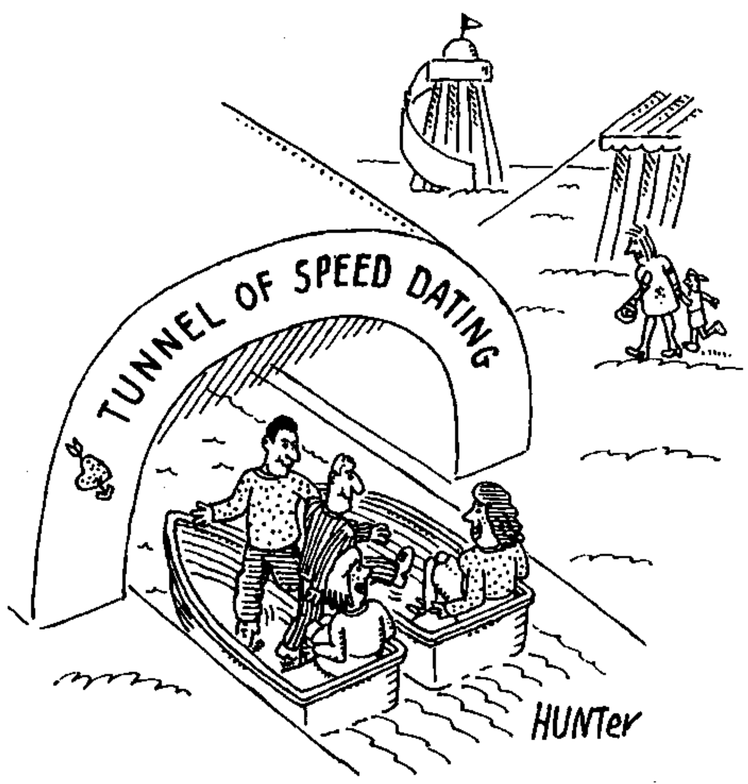
This July Wessex demonstrated its commitment to the wider social agenda with yet another pollution fine: Wessex paid £6,059 for pouring sewage into a Hampshire stream. The firm knew about the problem, but failed to either fix it or tell the Environment Agency. It was Wessex's third £6,000 fine for polluting rivers this year.

■ JOAN RUDDOCK MP and Environment Agency boss Sir John Harman spoke on a Severn Trent-sponsored platform alongside the firm's director, Peter Boss, on dirty waste. This July the agency called Severn Trent a "repeat offender" because of its regular pollution fines. This did not stop it being fined again in August, with a £2,000 penalty for leaking red oil from its waterworks into a brook in Bromsgrove, West Midlands.

■ CABINET MINISTER Douglas Alexander spoke on "e-government" for the New Local Government Network, sponsored by Vertex, a subsidiary of United Utilities which runs some council housing benefit and computer services.

Vertex's own "e-government solutions" are not always impressive: Ealing council is bringing its housing benefit back in-house after a Vertex contract field to impress. Council workers in Westminster went on strike after the Tory council decided to transfer almost the whole workforce to Vertex. Vertex still took over, but now the firm has already charged Westminster an extra £4m in its first year of work.

■ THE CITY worked hard in Bournemouth. Treasury minister Ruth Kelly MP spoke at a Standard Life Bank meeting on "housing market: Boom or Bust?" chaired by the bank's boss, Anne Gunther. One of housing's biggest crises is the huge volume of useless "endowment" mortgages. Three quarters of Standard Life's 1.4m mortgage endowment policies face a shortfall.



NEW TORIES

ADAM Afriye, the newly-selected Conservative candidate for the safe seat of Windsor, was due to be hauled in for questioning by local party chiefs this week after newspaper allegations that his wife Romi runs a "hostess" firm and has left the couple's home.

Mrs Afriye is managing director of Oyster Promotions, a corporate events firm whose website claims it "specialises in presenting your products, services and messages in a professional, effective and energetic manner". All very above-board no doubt; but the site prominently features a gorgeous pouting, scantily clad busty blonde leaning seductively against a sports car.

Though party grandees are not allowed to quiz prospective MPs on their marriages during selection, they are now to quiz him on why he forgot to disclose such potentially damaging information.

Forgetfulness seems a bit of a problem for Mr Afriye, who earlier this month found himself on the spot in a radio interview at the Tory party conference. Five Live's Simon Mayo asked whom he had voted for in the 2001 leadership election. For several moments Afriye uncomfortably umm-ed and ahh-ed saying he didn't remember.

"I don't think I voted for anyone," he finally concluded, ducking the issue of whether he supported IDS. He will have to come up with better answers for the Windsor Tories.

YOUNG TORIES

"WE'VE the largest and fastest growing political youth organisation in the country," proclaimed Iain Duncan Smith to rapturous applause in his Back Me or I Stay conference speech in Blackpool.

IDS was referring to Conservative Future (CF), which was set up in 1998 and supposed to bury the ghost of the late and unlamented Federation of Conservative Students.

Last month the *Daily Mirror* reported that chaos had erupted at CF's Nottingham conference after allegations of vote rigging. Attention immediately focused on the role of national organiser David Pugh, who was denounced by several delegates as a "cheating bastard". To many of those present it looked as if Pugh, who as a paid party official is expected to remain impartial, had been nobbling the election process to ensure that his own preferred candidates secured victory.

The *Eye* has seen several documents submitted to Central Office which make it clear that Pugh has been up to these tricks for several years. In one transcript he cheerfully describes how he and "Beakface" (Tory councillor Simon Jones) fixed the ballots for the 2001 elections for national chairman for their favourite Hannah Parker by opening up and changing sealed ballot papers.

A year later he pulled a similar stunt by removing ballot papers from Central Office and taking them back to the home of candidates Krystal Miller and Richard Hilton where they spent the afternoon arranging the outcome of the vote. The final "results" Miller and Hilton duly elected, with Miller, having polled the most votes, ushered in as chairman. However, Pugh later confessed: "Lou Hall would have come top instead of Krystal. She came second after we finished with it." He also admitted that three others of his favoured candidates only scraped in thanks to his handiwork. Miller is now Youth Chairman of the Norris for London campaign.

As a result of these allegations, Pugh has been summoned to explain himself to Theresa May. More embarrassingly, Central Office has had to inform its area chairmen that this year's elections will have to be rerun after what it euphemistically referred to as "some anomalies relating to the despatch of ballot papers".

How refreshing for IDS to see that the next generation of Tory MPs has nothing to learn from its leaders in the black arts.

'Backbiter'

THE SPROUT

THE ROW about the Eurostat fraud, possibly the largest corruption scandal in the EU's history, has also caught MEPs on the back foot.

Most find themselves in cahoots with the European commission as it is clear that EC president Romano Prodi has too much to lose by culling the odd commissioner that a final version of an internal audit might finger at the end of October.

Why don't British MEPs kick up a fuss? Perhaps because they fear it would only generate poor press coverage which would mean even fewer disillusioned voters showing up for in next July's European elections.

This has left the normally sycophantic Brussels press pack speculating wildly about who might be sacked. But it misses the point. Prodi will not fire the commissioner whose responsibilities include the EU statistics office, Pedros Solbes, whom he believes has done excellent work defending the stability and growth pact (known locally as "the stupidity pack"); nor will he dismiss the clueless German commissioner Michaele Schreyer who, *The Sprout* has learnt, genuinely knew nothing about the Eurostat case until it was in the papers.

More importantly Prodi will not fire Neil Kinnock, who has such a grip on British hacks in Brussels the former Italian premier probably thinks him more a magician than a failed politician.

Prodi knows the issue is not who is responsible for Eurostat, but how far those in Brussels are prepared to venture to expose the guilty without risking their own necks. "If Kinnock can lie to them [MEPs] in their own committee and get away with it, then Prodi can get away with much more," said one EU pundit.

The smart money says a scapegoat will emerge with an English-sounding name, working somewhere beneath the commissioners. Two unlucky Irishmen spring to mind. One, the head of the EU's publications office in Luxembourg, Thomas Cranfield, recently launched his own investigation into his outfit's link with Eurostat diverting £500,000 into a Luxembourg company. A closer look at the events reveal that he took this initiative after he became the subject of... an OLAF investigation himself.

The second, a cool operator called David O'Sullivan, is secretary-general of the commission. He has already admitted "knowing" of the Eurostat fraud before most, but didn't tell those in power as it might confuse them.

O'Sullivan is hated by Prodi's officials, *The Sprout* understands, which might explain a recent trip to Ireland by one of them, no doubt sounding out Dublin for a replacement. "He has been very difficult to work with... very difficult," confided a Prodi aide.

BRITISH MEPs' ineffectiveness continues – not just over the Eurostat fraud, but now over Zimbabwe too.

The European Union issued a travel ban on the leaders of Robert Mugabe's tyrannical regime in Harare, which Mugabe and his henchmen have ignored with impunity. Last week they were again demonstrating their contempt for Brussels by attending an EU-sponsored meeting of the ACP-EU parliamentary group in Rome... after Italy helpfully gave a visa to Paul Mangwana, a Mugabe minister.

The ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries receive boodles of EU dosh (upwards of £10bn); and since 2001 the co-president of the ACP-EU parliamentary group has been Britain's own Glenys Kinnock MEP. With Glenys in the chair, alas, chaos has been followed by disaster. One meeting was cancelled and two others ended in undignified slanging.

In this instance it appears Glenys failed to ensure that Italy told other EU governments of its intention to allow Mangwana into the country. If she had, British foreign secretary Jack Straw could have called for a veto at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in July.

This latest blunder is all the more glaring because for years Mrs Kinnock has made much of her support for Zimbabwe's opposition. Last year she even fired off an angry press release: "'Ban Brussels visit of Zimbabwe trade minister,' says Glenys."

The above article was compiled by The Sprout magazine, available in the UK by calling 0870 241 8832 or through www.thesprout.net

DOWN ON THE FARM

FARMERS have been busy since the announcement was made in June, but now the implications of the big bang coming in January 2005 are sinking in. Many are grinning from ear to ear as they plan their new life. It's going to be a helluva party and we're going to enjoy every minute of it.

The cause of the joy is "decoupling". From 2005 until 2013, subsidies will be divorced from production and farmers will get them anyway so long as they occupy enough farmland and keep it in "good agricultural condition". The theory is that, freed from the false economics of subsidies, farmers can better respond to real markets. And so they will... but not quite in the way Margaret Beckett pretends.

For the last five years farming income has actually been less than all direct subsidies. Farming, net of subsidy, makes a loss. So here we are being offered, on average, more money than we make as income. If we carry on farming we will make less. Can anyone spot what might happen?

Apparently not: we're in a strange "phoney war" period at the moment with everyone denying where this is leading. Land agents, who have successfully talked up the market through five years of crisis and now think they can walk on water, claim the complete removal of support from production will have little effect on land values or rents. Even more fantastic are the advisers and other pundits queuing up to argue that, as it might still be possible to make 2p per acre profit, farmers will carry on farming.

But why bother? Many farmers will lose money by doing so, but even those who could make a small return are unlikely to work 70 hours a week when they don't have to any more. This is not the same for all. Of the subsidised sectors, arable and beef are most likely to fold completely, while sheep farming might just be worth doing. Dairying, potatoes and horticulture have never been supported, but most dairy farms are closing anyway. In the rest of the EU farming is much more profitable and will be less affected.

So it is British arable and livestock farmers who are being offered something most of them have never had before: free time. Not only does the decoupled payment provide a secure income, but they can release their working capital as well (although there will be few buyers for breeding stock or machinery). And then the party begins! Some will try other jobs or businesses. Others will go back to college or take up undreamed-of hobbies. Many will let their farmhouses, further adding to their income, and decamp to sunnier climes. Of course it's a shame half of British farming will close down, but hey – with eight years' paid holiday ahead, who cares?

'Gumboot'

FTV

Kenyon Confronts (BBC1)
McIntyre Undercover (Five)

ONE of the greatest pleasures of television in the 80s was the investigative report, which had originated on the radio and of which the master was Roger Cook. A New Zealander built like an out-house, Cook would track down loan-sharks and snake-oil salesmen at their Essex offices or villas in Malaga.

Hanging from a helicopter above the Costa Del Crime, he would yell: "The defrauded pensioners of Nether Valley can't afford a barbecue in the sunshine, Mr Richards." The great thing about Cook was that he never left the high moral ground, even when interviewees were threatening to put him six-feet under it. On a really good night, there'd be a speech along the lines of: "Running me over isn't going to give that Mothers' Circle their money back, is it, Mr Stiffer?" It wasn't so much foot-in-door reporting as balls-in-car-door.

This style of journalism has gone from television now, probably because of the insurance costs: these days, producers have to fill out a risk assessment form before filming. And so the cult of undercover reporting was born, in which a journo is given a dressing up box and pretends to be a football thug or an airline steward, though with a little camera hidden in his shoulder-bag. The two stars of the genre are Donal McIntyre and Paul Kenyon.

But, though instantly successful, the format hit a snag. Television is often accused of cynically stretching hit shows to second or third series. Yet, in this case, no-one seems to have thought about the fact that an undercover investigation series on TV can only work once. Once the presenter's got a BAFTA and been interviewed in *Hello* magazine, you might as well just send round Huw Edwards with a camera crew the next time there's a dodgy pyramid-selling scheme.

Executives, however, are reluctant to let a hit format go and so both Kenyon and McIntryre are trying to keep going, even though Fingers and Babyface have their publicity pictures pinned to the wall of the safe-house in Essex.

In the latest series of **Kenyon Confronts**, the solution is to keep the reporter so far from the main action that they should probably retitle the series *Kenyon Fronts*. Investigating whether health and safety standards are lower in NHS hospitals built through private-public finance schemes, Kenyon sends

a series of unknown underlings into different hospitals. All he has to do is to link clips from their films.

The main problem with secret filming is that the footage looks so poor. What you get through a hole in the corner of a shoulder-bag is already vague and grainy but then, for legal reasons, they have to put a blob-head on top of anyone featured in the film who is not implicated in wrong-doing. For the viewer, it's like watching dumplings floating in thick soup.

Struggling to fill out the programme, the producers use lengthy clips from *Holby City* in which the fictional clinic deals with the problems of hygiene and bed-block which Kenyon's minions are investigating. Apart from allowing Kenyon to do his links on the *Holby* set, it's not clear what this conceit proved beyond the fact that hospital soaps are based on fact, as you might hope they would be.

At the end, Kenyon finally gets his own big moment when he strides into the department of health to present his dossier. But officials refuse to see him, making a further nonsense of the series title.

Over on **McIntyre Undercover**, Donal of that ilk has come up with a brilliant solution to the problem that his face is now too familiar to allow him to investigate in secret. What Donal does is to use a substitute: his almost-identical younger kid brother, Taigh. This cunning combination of an unknown with a famous face is sent into a care-home for the elderly, where the risk of this strategy is exposed early on.

Within the first minutes of his assignment, a fellow employee asks him suspiciously whether he's making a documentary for the BBC. Taigh is able to reply convincingly that he isn't — because it's actually for Channel Five — but he probably shouldn't be sent to penetrate any football gangs or loan-shark operations where the doubts might be more energetically expressed and followed-up.

As with Kenyon, though, the producers have to find something for Donal to do because he's the name in the title. Accordingly, the long first segment of the documentary consists of the older brother filming at a rest-home which is well-run, clean and efficient. The programme pretends that this is to establish what good practice looks like but we know that it's because Donal has to earn his money.

At the end of *Kenyon Confronts*, we learn that hospital hygiene is a serious problem which has been made worse by NHS reforms. At the end of *McIntyre Undercover*, we learn that some elderly residents of rest-homes are neglected and abused. Well, I never. Next week, presumably, the two shows will battle it out to prove once and for all those rumours about what it is that bears do in the woods. Maybe it's time to put the covers on undercover television.

'Remote Controller'

MEDIA NEWS

THE two men in charge of the new ITV, Charles Allen from Granada and Michael Green from Carlton, may hate each other's guts, but that hasn't stopped them getting together in past business ventures.

They were jointly responsible for the sensational ITV Digital fiasco, which collapsed when nothing like enough people subscribed to it. The biggest losers were the smaller football clubs in the Nationwide League who had expected huge fees from the new channel. When the bubble burst, the clubs hoped for some recompense from the two big companies that had enticed them into the net in the first place. Alas, when they looked at the small print the club bosses discovered that the big companies had managed to duck any financial responsibility for the fiasco and could take advantage of that hardy old faithful "limited liability".

Hundreds of professional footballers had to hunt around for other jobs, at considerable damage to the "beautiful" game. It was no doubt this historic contribution to British sport that persuaded the government and the mayor of London to come up with a surprise appointment to the board of the company which will, at great expense to all of us, seek to bring the Olympic games to London in 2012. His name? Charles Allen.

THE merger of Carlton and Granada will supposedly free up millions of pounds to make "programmes of high quality" for a unified ITV. But one immediate effect has been a cash bonanza for staff at Granada, who've been awarded a 2 percent pay rise and share options in the company to celebrate the department of trade's decision to give the deal the go-ahead.

This brings to an end a two-year pay freeze imposed as a result of what chairman Charles Allen called a "difficult climate" caused by the "severe downturn in advertising revenue". Naturally this did not affect his own paypacket. Last year, while the company recorded a loss of £164m, he was awarded £2.4m in share options on top of his £1m salary.

IT'S nice to see the ministry of defence not holding a grudge against the BBC after all the Hutton inquiry hoo-hah.

Last month Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers (Sabre), an organisation promoting the benefits of employing forces reservists, held a ceremony at Chelsea barracks to recognise good employers who have made a "commitment to support the reserves".

One employer picking up a Sabre award for supporting those of its staff who are volunteer soldiers was the BBC. The two signatures at the bottom of the certificate were those of Michael Walter, chief of the defence staff, and secretary of state Geoff Hoon. Gritted teeth during the signing, perhaps?

AS THE non-executive directors of BSkyB gather to decide which candidate called Murdoch would make the best chief executive for the company after the departure of Tony Ball, a curious coincidence comes to light.

The senior non-executive director in charge of the appointment process is that well known guardian of the hereditary principle, Lord St John of Fawsley. He has been on the board of Sky since 1991, the same year he was elected master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

He will be helped in his decision by one of the other non-executive directors who joined the board in February, Lord Wilson of Dinton, the former cabinet secretary who is the current master of Emmanuel College. The cosy relationship between dish and gown will be further cemented this Tuesday when BSkyB hosts an event for the Emmanuel Society, the college's alumni club, at its London headquarters at which trade and industry minister Stephen Timms will speak.

In his time in charge of Emmanuel Lord St John (who remains a fellow with rooms in the college) courted controversy by soliciting £250,000 from Mohamed Fayed towards the college's development fund. This pales into insignificance, however, beside the three million that Rupert Murdoch donated to his alma mater, Worcester College in Oxford, to create a chair of communications in 1990. With the 72-year-old mogul renewing his interest in academia (this summer he endowed a chair of communications at one of China's top universities) Emmanuel has manoeuvred itself into the perfect position to benefit from his generosity.

EYE SKY

In the end, the 0-0 result in front of 50,000 screaming, baiting, hating fans in Istanbul takes us straight to the finals of the European Championship next year. *All over England every pub and club with a telly was packed to the doors... and tuned to Sky.*"

— *News of the World*, 12 October.

THE BBC's "Making It Happen" initiative continues to disappoint. It gives the impression that it empowers staff – even the hopeless ones – to exercise their "creative skills". But very little is actually "made to happen" when they do.

The scheme's recent script competition produced 1,000 entries. None of them will be commissioned, but "the five winners will have their scripts read out by professional actors at a readings event attended by Alan Yentob".

Equally depressing is the terse, photocopied rejection slip sent to the also-rans. In order "not to waste the resources of the BBC, we decided to use the same system we use with unsolicited work", explains the Beeb's "creative director of new writing".

THE opening ceremony for the revolving door at BBC Television Centre, complete with string quartet, is not the most ridiculous opening at White City.

The new Broadcasting Centre is opening too and plans for something special are at an advanced stage. The Beeb has commissioned a team of designers to create "an installation" that will give the new space "an identity" and staff have been asked for help.

"To make this installation a reality I need a pair of shoes from each of you to use within the space for a period of four months. I've given the design team mine... This is a real chance for all of us to be part of a living piece of art and a unique moment in BBC Broadcast's history," says Pam Masters, managing director of BBC Broadcast Limited.

ONE million pounds a year has been set aside for the BBC's "Great Spaces theme leader" to spend on tarting up offices. Hacks are asked to come up with suggestions and if they are liked, they'll be able to choose "12 percent of the fixtures and fittings".

The Beeb hopes the scheme will "forge a closer relationship between the BBC and Land Securities Trillium", the private property group that manages BBC buildings. A million quid a year of licence-payer's money should work wonders.

DUMB BRITAIN

BBC Radio Nottingham phone-in quiz

Jeff Owen: Where did the D-Day landings take place?

Contestant (*after pause*): Pearl Harbour?

Mastermind, BBC2

John Humphrys: Who was the actor who was knighted in 1953 and was a nephew of Ellen Terry?

Contestant: Er... George Orwell.

The Weakest Link, BBC2

Anne Robinson: What "Z" is used to describe a human who has returned from the dead?

Contestant: Unicorn.

Fifteen-To-One, C4

William "G" Stewart: Above the entrance to which place do the words "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here" appear?

Contestant: A church?

Stewart: Er, sorry no, hell.

THE NEOPHILIACS

"I think magic is the new rock'n'roll, but comedy was the new rock'n'roll so maybe magic is the new comedy?" — Pete Firman, *The Stage*.

"People view motoring as a necessary evil but, for some, the car has simply become the new Church." — Edmund King of the RAC, *Metro*.

"Bathrooms are the new kitchens." — Findaproperty website.

"Straight men are the new gay men." — Liz Morrison, *Southern Voice*.

"Barcelona is the new Paris." — *Daily Telegraph*.

"Tallinn is the new Prague." — Newsletter for Egg credit cards.

"Is Balham the new Notting Hill?" — *Waitrose Food Illustrated*.

"Is soccer the new tennis?" — Gillian Reynolds, Radio 2.

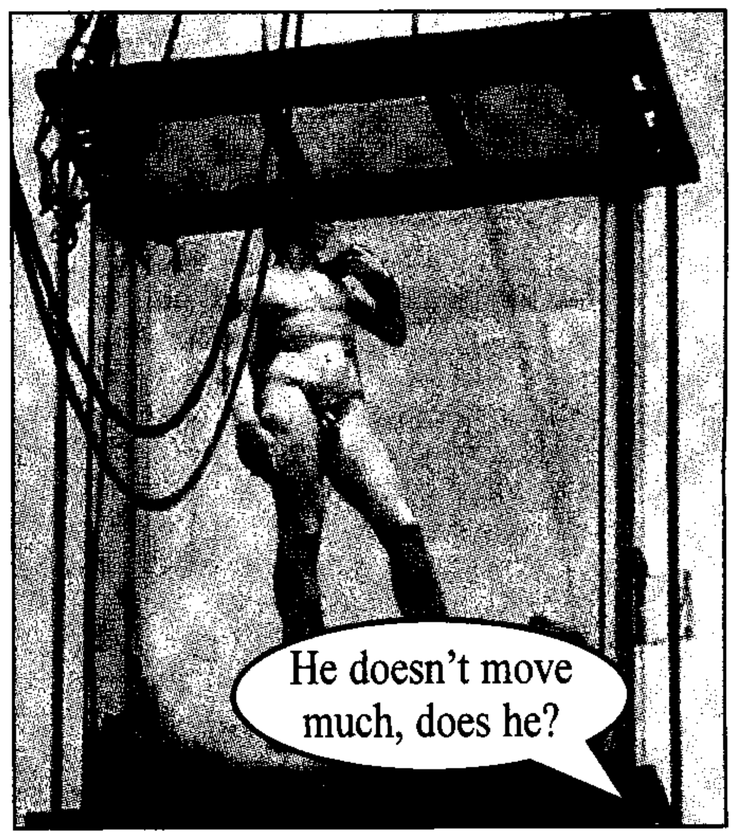
"Gardening leave... is, it seems, the new 'spending more time with the family'." — Ian Ridley, *Observer*.

"Cardigans are the new jackets." — James Delingpole, the *Times*.

"Eight is the new 15." — *The Times* fashion supplement.

SPLIT personalities

Bob Moore



Michelangelo's David Blaine

AD NAUSEAM

JUST when you'd finally acquired the Abbey habit and it had sunk in that life was complicated enough, here comes Abbey National with a rebranding and another new push.

The fonts are softer, the colours range from mushy-pea to vermilion, and the name has changed to Abbey. Sorry, abbey. If you believe what they say, they're turning banking on its head.

Of course what they're actually doing is trying to turn Abbey's fortunes around after announcing losses of £1bn in March. Abbey promptly sacked Euro RSCG, its ad agency of nine years, after only a 48-hour review. It then hired our old friends TBWA.

The resulting campaign, backed by the now-mandatory rebrand, has cost abbey £30m. TBWA is claiming that this campaign is revolutionary because it has no strapline, but in fact the message is roundly the same as Abbey's was a year ago – they're going to simplify banking, cut out the jargon, because, you could add, life's complicated enough.

Anyway, ignoring the anodyne TV slots (in which a bank is turned upside down, implying... yup) *Eye* regulars will be able to predict the results of the rebrand, as it follows the usual formula: 1) Remove definite article 2) Change font 3) Go Lower Case, for which the price is the best part of £10m. You may have seen the results – "abbey" looks like a make of psychedelic fruit pastille.

Wolff Olins, the perpetrators, are the kings of brand consultancy, modern-day manufacturers of the emperor's new clothes. In the banking sector, Abbey/abbey may be intrigued to learn that Wolff Olins also work for Lloyds TSB, Prudential and First Direct, the last of which it describes as "Wolff Olins' benchmark brand in retail banking". Now that Abbey has coughed up £10m and lost a word and a capital in return, it might come as no surprise to learn it is not that high on Wolff's agenda.

A MONTH ago we reported that BBC Magazines was publishing "Scenic Days Out", a 36-page freebie inserted in *Radio Times* and full of useful travel tips like "The Renault Scenic has handy aircraft-style tables on the back of the front seats, which are perfect for picnics."

The question was whether the plug, worth £400,000 to the BBC, would confuse readers, being neither advert nor editorial but a hybrid.

Oops! It *was* a piece of BBC editorial – Renault bankrolled the venture but BBC Magazines was the publisher. Neither side comes out of it smelling of roses.

DOING THE ROUNDS

New Labour, Old Tory

"EARLIER this year, the government announced a programme of reform to strengthen and modernise the Health Service... Local hospitals will be able to become self-governing, run by a local board, while remaining completely within the NHS... These hospitals will be locally managed, with much more local pride and commitment, and have much more freedom to take control of their own affairs. At the moment, too many decisions affecting local services are made in Whitehall."

Funnily enough the above does *not* come from a press release trumpeting the virtues of foundation hospitals, "new" Labour's latest big idea. Instead, it is part of a department of health leaflet published when the Tories were trying to flog the idea of NHS trusts in, er, 1990. The failure of the Tory market reforms to deliver a better service may help explain why health secretary John "Oh Fuck, not health" Reid can't even persuade his own party to back him now on foundation hospitals.

As with foundation hospitals, only a select few "high performing" hospitals were allowed to become first wave trusts, giving them an unfair advantage over those who couldn't. And if they cocked up and went hugely into debt, the rest of the NHS would still bail them out because of the political ramifications of seeing a hospital go bust.

The Tory argument was that when every hospital eventually became a trust, and every GP a fund-holder, the standard of care would rise across the board. Alas, subsequent waves of trusts and fund-holders found that the benefits were far more marginal. Those who had been allowed to join early creamed off all the advantages.

Trusts were never allowed to become truly self-governing and were increasingly beholden to a panicked Whitehall as the reforms failed. Likewise, the foundation proposals have already been so neutered to minimise rebellion that the freedom they will have is minimal. However, Reid has at least promised managers: "I won't try to micro-manage the NHS like that bastard Milburn."

"New" Labour has also adopted the old Tory idea of patient choice. In the 90s, the NHS was divided into purchasers and providers on the understanding that purchasers could shop around the market on behalf of patients, who would then have free referral in the NHS. In the event, health authorities were obliged to agree block contracts with trusts, which meant most patients had no choice where they went. Getting a health authority to stump up for an extra-contractual referral was near impossible.

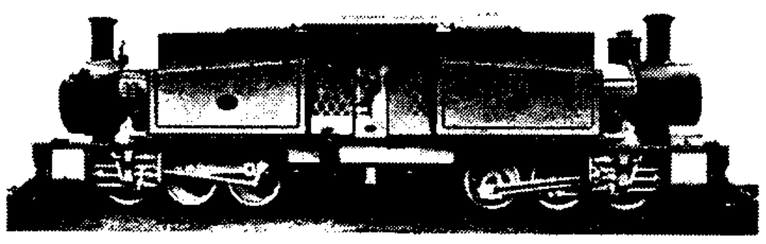
Under Labour, the purchaser remains the NHS but the provider could be anyone you like. In theory, you can choose for your hip to be replaced at an NHS hospital (local or distant), at a private hospital (with an NHS contract), at a diagnostic and treatment centre (private or NHS), or in France.

Reid's biggest advantage is that he has more money to play with. The Tory NHS ran out of money half way through the year, and when the purchasers weren't purchasing, the providers couldn't provide. But "new" Labour's success depends largely on whether British patients want to be informed consumers who shop around assiduously for the best deal on a hip. Or whether they just want to hobble to the nearest hospital and get it fixed.

The Tory response has been to try to "out-choice" Labour. As well as (again) promising the NHS "freedom from central control", shadow health secretary Liam Fox will reimburse 60 percent of the NHS cost to anyone who chooses to go private. Gordon Brown ridiculed this as a pay-off for the rich, but there are plenty of desperate people who use their life savings to go private, and would only be too glad of the help. However, Mr Justice Munby's high court ruling that those who are forced to go private because of unacceptable NHS delay are entitled to full state reimbursement "in principle" could be far more important than any of these reheated health reforms.

M.D.

"I declare this hospital open whether you like it or not"



SIGNAL FAILURES

Mary Shelley's Network Rail

ONE year after its creation, Network Rail is suffering the problems of a Frankenstein. "New" Labour gave NR the body of Railtrack, which operated no trains and didn't regard passengers or freight consignors as customers, and, though it wasn't allowed a mind of its own, it got two entirely different heads.

For example, the rail regulator has spent most of NR's first year assessing documents (a huge "interim review" between huge five-yearly reviews) to determine how much NR should spend. His findings, meanwhile, were swiftly denigrated by NR's other head: the strategic rail authority (SRA), which likened him to a supermarket price-checker.

Soon the regulator head is to be replaced by several smaller heads on a regulatory board. To make corporate schizophrenia doubly certain, NR has 100 "members" from disparate backgrounds. The treasury and transport department also have a say. For good measure American consultant Bechtel – always willing to enter disaster zones like post-war Croatia and Iraq – is being paid to guide NR through the bungled Virgin-Railtrack west-coast mainline renewal.

NR's corporate identity is as uncertain as its forward plan. The national audit office (NAO) said in July that NR should be treated as a quasi subsidiary of the government's SRA: "The government is, via the SRA, the party bearing the risk that would usually be borne by equity capital." But the treasury insists that it's a private company. This is for accounting convenience and so the government can tut-tut whenever its monster transgresses. (This deceit hides under NR's not-for-profit cloak, which turns out to be just another way to raise cash by government-backed bonds.)

Transport secretary Alistair Darling did tut-tut after last month's King's Cross derailment, saying it was something the government wasn't prepared to tolerate. It was the latest accident linked to Railtrack's phenomenally expensive reliance on contractors to keep its vital organs working, which leads to confusion and communication lapses. Even Jarvis has recognised this won't work, deciding last week to withdraw from NR maintenance to save its reputation. But by ensuring NR inherited Railtrack's system, the government has shown it *is* willing to tolerate more accidents.

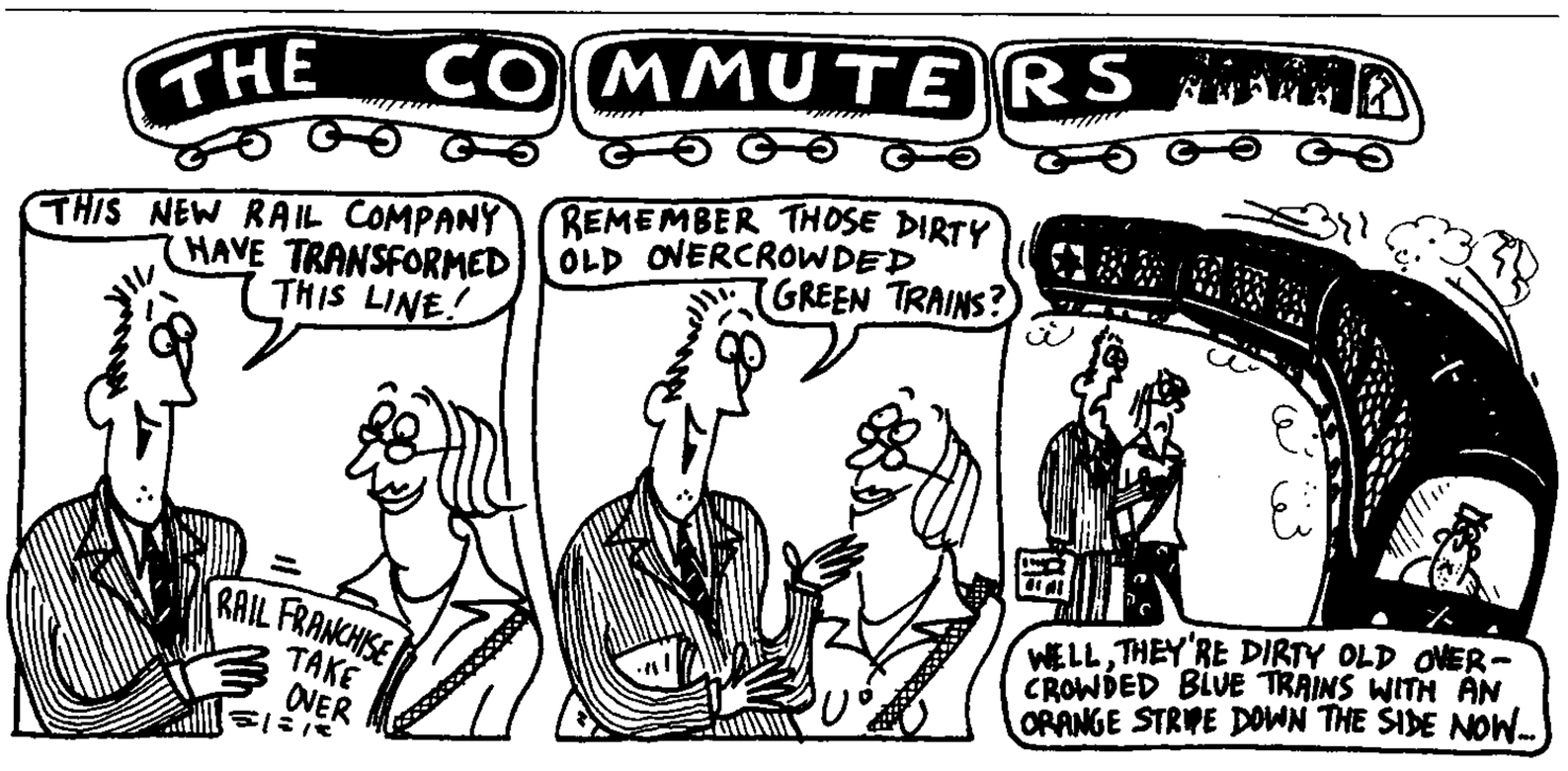
NR has at least acknowledged the drawback of paying companies whatever they need to fix whatever they think needs fixing: a study has shown only 57 percent of track renewals by contractors were fully justified. NR has taken track maintenance in three areas and signalling design in-house for greater efficiency – yet it has dished out fresh contracts in other areas.

Recent chaos on the west-coast line in Staffordshire shows how this monster crashes around. NR closed 50 miles of Britain's busiest line for 17 weeks for assorted contractors to complete renewal work. The *Eye* was leaked a copy of NR's log as the line's reopening on Monday 29 September approached. "All works progressing well with no problems to report," was the verdict at 4.30am on the Sunday. But at 7.15pm an extra week's line closure suddenly appears on the log. Intending passengers were still being promised normal services two hours later. Such a long over-run indicates serious problems. The fact that they weren't spotted until hours before the deadline raises questions about supervision, inspection and Bechtel's ability to prevent cock-ups.

● WHILE the privatised railway struggles under the cost of its inefficiency, the SRA is spending £10,998 on full-page adverts in *Rail*, a magazine for train enthusiasts, which show an SRA bureaucrat and describe their duties.

Clearly it's more important for trainspotters to know what the "team manager, operations east" does than for the public to know how much of its dosh Virgin Rail is getting this year to compensate for the failure of its business plans and why no rival has been invited to bid to take over (*Eye* 1083). The SRA has yet to publish that information, although Stagecoach has boasted to its shareholders that Virgin Rail (which Stagecoach half owns) is in line for an extra £282m of our cash this year.

'Dr B. Ching'


THE COMMUTERS
THIS NEW RAIL COMPANY HAVE TRANSFORMED THIS LINE!
RAIL FRANCHISE TAKE OVER
REMEMBER THOSE DIRTY OLD OVERCROWDED GREEN TRAINS?
WELL, THEY'RE DIRTY OLD OVER-CROWDED BLUE TRAINS WITH AN ORANGE STRIPE DOWN THE SIDE NOW...

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

SLEAZY DOES IT

TWO Bangladeshi managers working in Tower Hamlets council's regeneration department have been arrested by fraud squad detectives, whose eight-month investigation into Britain's poorest borough has already claimed the scalps of two Labour councillors, also Bangladeshi, who are suspended from holding party office (*Eyes passim*).

The arrests come against a background of events which raise serious concerns about who is in control of the Labour-run council. Despite being impoverished, the council has recently flogged off a number of substantial properties at knock-down prices to... the government of Bangladesh. The latest, sold for £800,000, is the historic Limehouse Library, a grade II listed Victorian building, which occupies a prime site in the borough and has a famous statue of Clement Attlee outside.

At a reception in the town hall last month, the keys were handed over to the Bangladeshi high commissioner, who could hardly contain his delight. "Thank you for allowing the high commission to buy the library at such a good price," Sheikh Razzak Ali told council leader Helal Abbas. A good price indeed: the property has been estimated to be worth around £3m. The high commission has promised that the former library will be used for the benefit of the area's many Bangladeshi residents (as a visa processing office), but many locals are sceptical. Similar promises were made two years ago when a substantial council property in Bow was sold to the Bangladeshi government. It remained vacant for a year before being sold on for £500,000 profit.

PS: Bangladesh was last week named the "world's most corrupt country" by Transparency International, an anti-sleaze organisation. Runners-up were Nigeria, Haiti and Paraguay.

● **MEANWHILE Tower Hamlets' Labour group has had a terrific idea for rewarding its hard-working councillors (well, the senior Labour ones anyway). If a motion before the full council on 5 November is passed, council leader Helal Abbas will pocket a 49 percent increase in his allowances, backdated to the beginning of June. Over the next four years he will receive a total increase of not less than 83 percent. "Lead members" – once referred to as chairmen of committees – would get an immediate increase of 45 percent, also backdated, and an increase of 78 percent over four years. Such radical moves have to be paid for of course. So it is proposed that the leader of the Lib-Dem opposition, Janet Ludlow, should have her allowance *cut* by 11 percent immediately.**

FINANCIAL SLAUGHTER

PANIC is gripping Hammersmith & Fulham council's controlling Labour group since news broke of a £173m black hole in the council's pension fund caused by disastrous punts on the stockmarket in 2000 – just before shares plummeted.

Using classic Labour spin techniques, council leader Andrew Slaughter and his team have denied there's a problem, muddied the waters and attacked their opponents. A memo to council staff criticises "distorted" and "sensationalised" reports of the funding gap, without actually denying the facts – which come from the council's own audited accounts.

It claims the shortfall is no worse than in other local authorities (the pension scheme's own auditors say the fund has significantly underperformed the average). And although the deficit is equivalent to £2,700 for every household in the borough, it is said to have "no budgetary implications". The leadership promises to fix it without raising either employee or employer pension contributions, or council taxes, having "taken account of the shortfall and made appropriate provision within our medium term financial strategy". So that's OK, then.

Slaughter has taken decisive action against the fund's investment panel, however – by demanding the resignation of the whistleblower. In a remarkable letter sent by courier, he told the Tory councillor he should have kept quiet about the crisis "in the best interest of the management of the scheme and its members".

Some wonder why Slaughter hasn't demanded the head of the long-serving chairman of the trustees under whom the decision was taken three years ago to adopt a riskier stance on the stockmarket just as it peaked, and who then presided over the unfolding crisis without taking evasive action. Step forward... Andrew Slaughter.

TRURO'S Town Hall in Boscawen Street is to be called the "Town Hall", councillors decided this week.

The West Briton

BIRD-BRAINED

CONSERVATIVE-controlled Solihull municipal borough council is under increasing fire from animal welfare groups over the National Cage and Aviary Birds Exhibition, sponsored by IPC magazines, for which it has granted a licence at the National Exhibition Centre in December.

The annual event, which has taken place for more than 10 years at the NEC, will see some 70,000 birds from all over the world on sale and display. Most critics do not have a problem with the showing of budgies, canaries and the like bred in captivity. But considerable disquiet centres on the trade in wild and exotic birds, which will be carried on at least half the stalls. Experts in wildlife crime believe few, if any, of the exotic species on sale at such shows are bred in captivity.

Cruel methods of trapping and transportation are used, which result in many birds dying long before they reach the UK. The pet animals act of 1951, amended in 1983, forbids the sale of animals as pets in any "public place, or at a stall, barrow or market" – which is what the NEC show clearly is. But, in granting IPC's licence, Solihull council wilfully ignored such concerns.

Defying commonsense it declared that Britain's premier exhibition centre was not, after all, a "public place". And the concerns about the illegal, cruel trade in endangered species? A matter for national and international governments, says Solihull, not a mere local authority.

● **ENFIELD council's Tory cabinet member for environment, Cllr Terry Neville, has made much over the past 18 months of the council's improved record on road maintenance. So locals may be forgiven for considering it a bit rich for him to have submitted a negligence claim against his own council after his Jag was damaged after driving over a pothole.**

CAUGHT SHORT

IN BATH, Lib-Dem councillor, former *Times* obit writer and vain parliamentary hopeful Tim Bullamore (*Eye* 1051) has been kicking up a stink about the decision of Bath and North-east Somerset (Banes) council's multi-party executive to save £63,000 a year by shutting 16 of the city's 37 public conveniences.

Banes is short of readies having poured £15m down the drain on the long overdue Bath Spa project (*Eyes passim*). Yet when the cut was first mooted – by his own Lib-Dem group – Bullamore didn't object. Indeed, he voted for it back in February as part of the council's budget package. "I did vote for [it]," Bullamore tells the *Eye*, "but when the implications became apparent I decided to make a fuss." Vote first, think later. That's the way to do it!

FURTHER EDUCASHUN

SO farewell then to the disastrous quango Education and Learning Wales (ELWa). The post-16 training and education body is to be split back into two bodies, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the National Council (which will keep the ELWa moniker as a kind of subtitle).

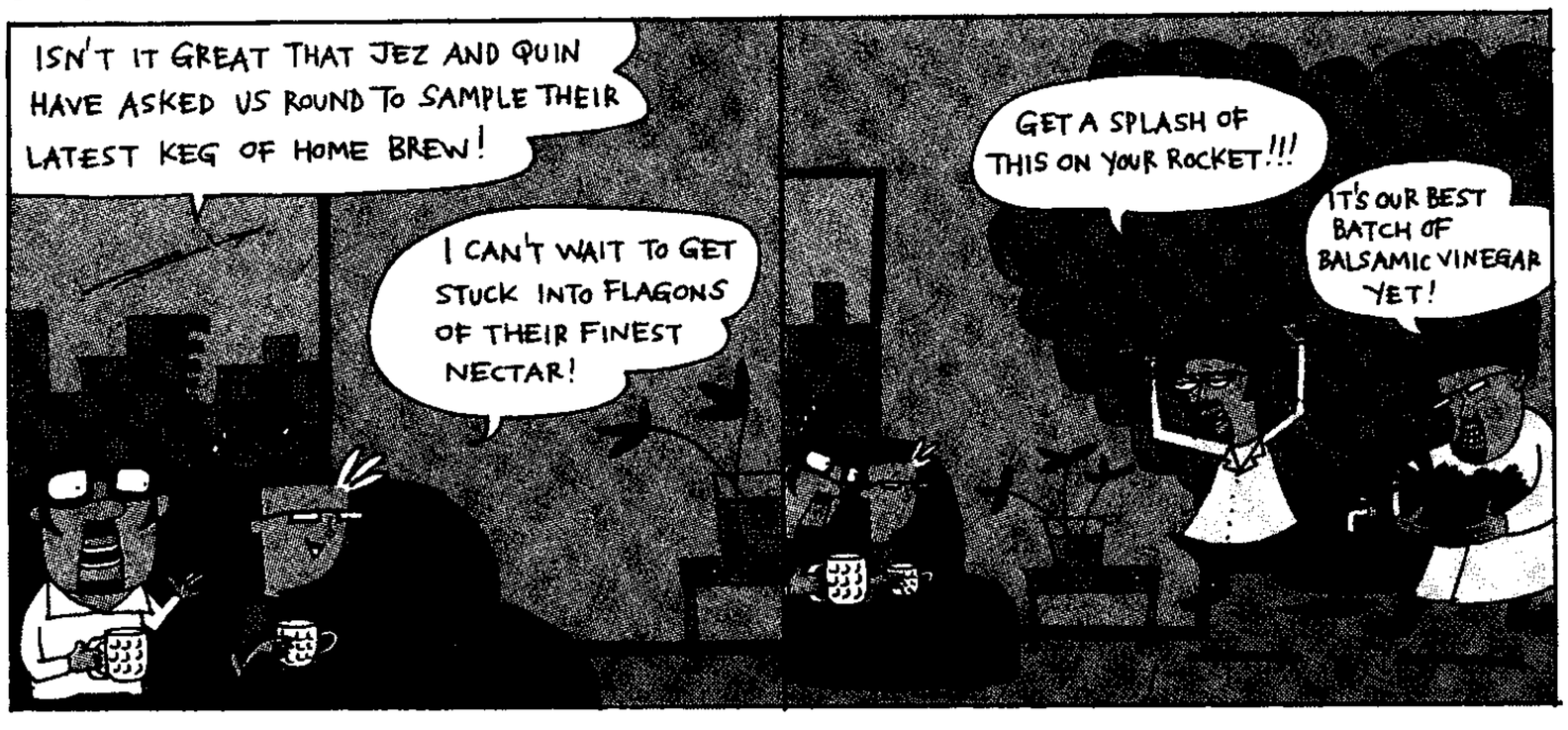
Last month Sir John Bourn, auditor-general of Wales, concluded that there was a "serious and fundamental breakdown in the controls that should have been operated" over ELWa's finances. As well as giving a £4m to the stalled Rhondda Pop Factory (*Eye* 1075), auditors also found an irregular payment of £1.7m for college engineering facilities in breach of accounting rules and an astonishing £3.6m of payments on account to training providers – made in a desperate bid to get money out of the ELWa account before the end of the financial year.

Four days before the release of the damning report, the departure of ELWa chief executive Steve Martin was announced. Martin left with £45,000 "severance pay" – to the fury of those involved in further education in Wales as well as opposition leaders in the Welsh Assembly. After the report came out Martin was quoted saying: "We were too ambitious. We did far too much too quickly and should have taken more time." ELWa chair Enid Rowlands has also given up her post.

Welsh speakers, who recognised in "Elwa" the Welsh word for profit, are left asking who has profited from the existence of this shortlived quango. Certainly not the students.

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

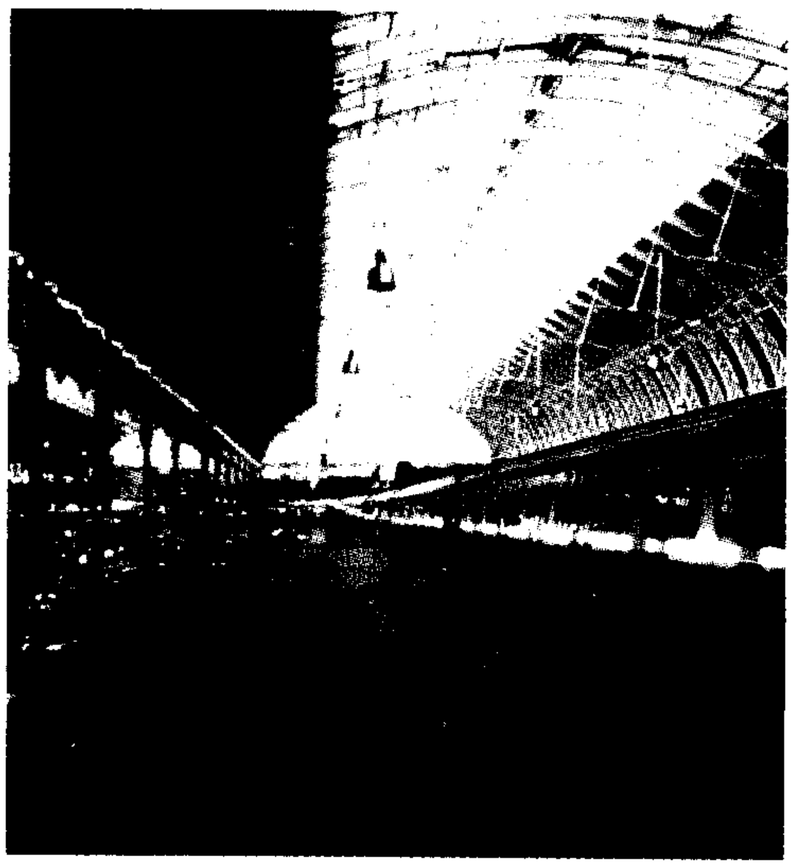
KNIFE & PACKER


ISN'T IT GREAT THAT JEZ AND QUIN HAVE ASKED US ROUND TO SAMPLE THEIR LATEST KEG OF HOME BREW!
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET STUCK INTO FLAGONS OF THEIR FINEST NECTAR!
GET A SPLASH OF THIS ON YOUR ROCKET!!!
IT'S OUR BEST BATCH OF BALSAMIC VINEGAR YET!

NOOKS and CORNERS

THE CULT of Isambard Kingdom Brunel may have got out of hand (he came second in TV's *Great Britons* vote), but the half-French engineer was certainly one of the most creative and dynamic men of the 19th century. Quite right that the government should propose his monumental triumph, the Great Western Railway from London to Bristol, as a possible World Heritage Site.

At the eastern end is Brunel's Paddington Station, whose original triple elliptical-arched train shed of 1851-54 is arguably the most beautiful and coherent of those astonishing iron 'n' glass structures that rose as the new cathedrals of the 19th century.



Alas, today the glass in the roof has been replaced by plastic sheeting which has turned brown, while the concourse is now littered with exciting "retail outlets". But at least the station is still listed grade I and sheltering trains as efficiently as ever.

However, Network Rail – the "not for dividend" replacement for wretched Railtrack – now wants to cash in on the commercial development of nearby Paddington Basin. Ostensibly to expand the station, it wants to build offices along the southern side of Brunel's terminus with three blocks rising to 16 storeys above extra platforms and track.

The problem is that existing tracks beyond Brunel's original shed are covered by the later, fourth span of Paddington: a fine, 109ft-wide arched steel shed added in 1916 by the GWR's chief engineer, W.W. Grierson. Network Rail wants to demolish it – a significant portion of a grade I listed building.

Although disfigured by scaffolding, Span 4 is interesting in its own right. Grierson managed to expand the old station in a sympathetic way while making it clear that it was not part of Brunel's original conception. There might be an argument that demolishing Span 4 would restore the discrete integrity of Brunel's original triple train shed with its A-B-A rhythm, but only if the new work were an improvement on the old. It won't be. Instead of standing in a fine vaulted railway space, trains will skulk under an office block as they do at Charing Cross.

The architects are Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners. Grimshaw, with the engineer Tony Hunt, was responsible for the complex and curvaceous shed at Waterloo for Eurostar. But there is no trace of the railway glamour he achieved there in his Paddington plans which are mediocre and banal.

The only functional justification for them is that they will provide 24 percent more platform space. But First Great Western estimates that if one operator (rather than two, as at present) ran all the trains using Paddington, more efficient platform use could already increase rush-hour capacity by between 20 and 30 percent. Network Rail only wants to redevelop the fourth span to make money out of new offices.

The demolition is vigorously opposed by English Heritage and by SAVE Britain's Heritage. English Heritage is often accused of standing in the way of progress (ie money). But Paddington is one of the greatest monuments of railway architecture and it works. Span 4 should stay.

SURELY the most depressing big station in Britain is New Street in Birmingham, where the low, cramped platforms lie below a tawdry 1960s shopping centre called the Palisades. Sadly, Network Rail wants to achieve a similar effect at the perfectly good Edinburgh Waverley station too.

Lying in the valley between the Old Town and New Town, Waverley must be the best sited and most romantic station in Europe. It's certainly the most exciting to arrive at, with the Castle towering above the tracks on one side and Carlton Hill on the other.

But sheltering passengers and trains isn't a profitable use of space. Thus Network Rail and the strategic rail authority (SRA) want to replace Waverley's glass roof with... 40,000 square metres of shops.

You've been warned: arriving in the Scottish capital could one day be just as depressing as arriving at Birmingham New Street.

'Piloti'

I-SPY *Central London*

Submitted by Fred Speirs. £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs.)*

MUSIC & MUSICIANS

THE BBC in general and Radio 3 in particular are under fire on all sides for ducking their responsibilities to *classical* music, which used to be the very stuff of Radio 3 until controller Roger Wright got rattled by competition from Classic FM.

Music-loving MP Gerald Kaufman has been leading the attack on the station's warm embrace of easy-listening alternatives to western classics (not just "world music" but more jazz, more crossover, more Broadway).

Meanwhile the casualties of the BBC's retreat from classical music coverage pile up. A recent letter to the *Times*, lamenting that there was no British pianist good enough to be in the finals of the Leeds Piano Competition, suggested the Beeb's hugely reduced coverage of the event must take some of the blame. Worse still, the celebrated Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Competition, which over 20 years has been *the* great motivational support for amateur singing in Britain, has collapsed because BBC2 no longer wants to televise it.

Deprived of TV coverage, Sainsbury's has withdrawn sponsorship and the whole thing has been liquidated. In a feeble half-apology the BBC has talked about a possible small-scale alternative linked to Radio 3. But that won't win back the sponsor. Nor does it impress the Association of British Choral Directors, whose chairman describes what has happened as "tragic".

'Lunchtime O'Boulez'

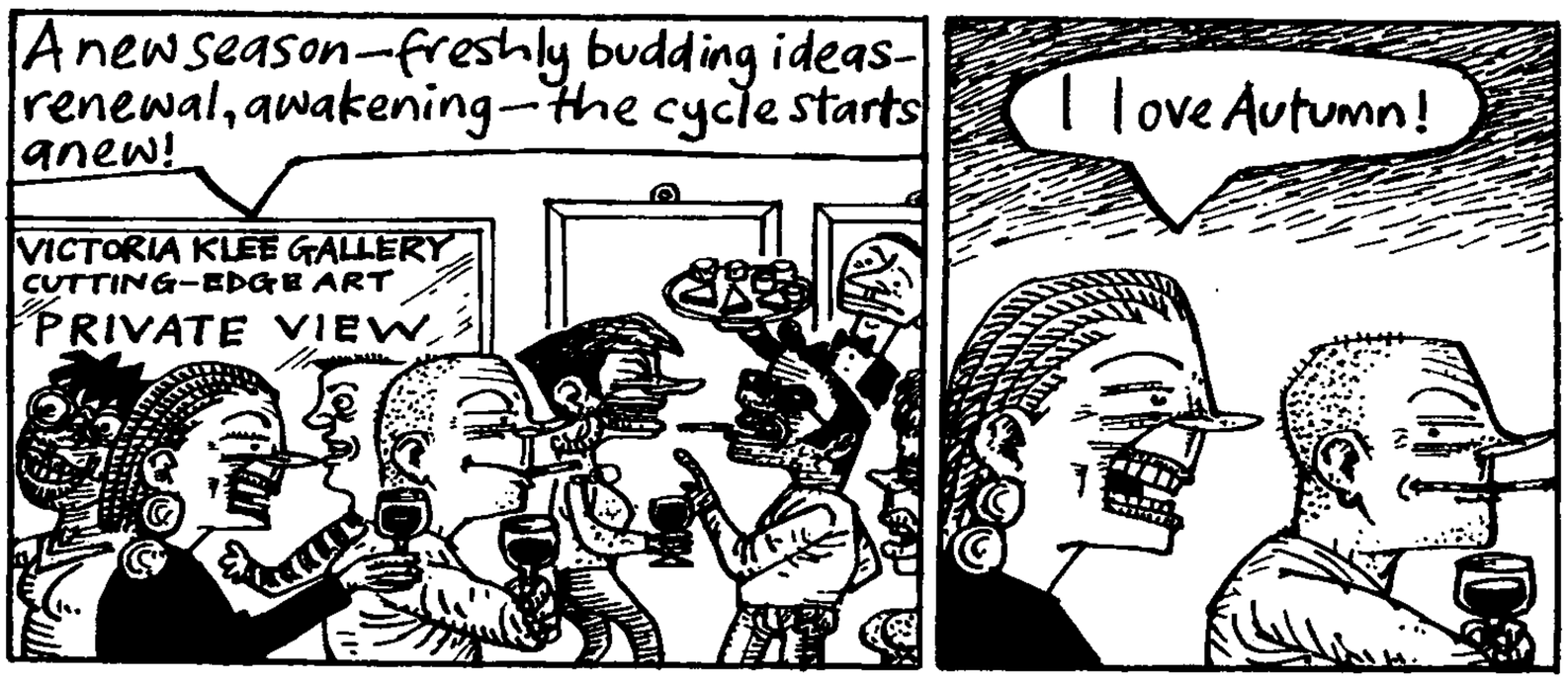
❐ ACOUSTIC experts have warned that bagpipes could be linked to earring loss, repetitive strain injury, alcoholism and marriage break-ups.

Surrey & Hants News & Mail

TRUE DRAMA Erotica, BBC2, 9.15pm
A new film tells the story behind Ludwig van Beethoven's (Ian Hart, left) masterpiece, *Symphony No 3*, the *Erotica*.

Irish Times

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS BY BIRCH



Warballs

"The tragedy of 11 September has paradoxically led to a boom in the caravan industry, but has this benefited the consumer?" — *Caravan Club Magazine*.

"The estate at Stanstead Hall, spiritualism's stately home, which houses the former Arthur Findlay College, will be restored 'back to its former glory'. But the last full-year figures which are available show that the college's visitor fees decreased by nearly £40,000 compared to the previous 12 months... In their report, the directors said that downfall was 'partially as a result of the worldwide anxiety caused by terrorist attacks in September 2001'." — *Psychic News*.

Letters

Labour topiczzz...

Sir,

You report in HP Sauce that the Labour party decided that only four motion topics could be timetabled for debate at this year's conference, against the six debated last year. The rules were in fact exactly the same that delegates could vote for four topics, with the top four chosen across conference as a whole (the constituency parties and the affiliates) being debated, and any topics receiving 50 percent plus one of the parties' votes. This allows between four and eight topics to be debated. This year it just happened that only four met the criteria.

Yours waving the Red Flag,
TAMSIN PIPER,

Tottenham N17.

PS: A rule amendment was debated and passed which allows the top four motions selected by the parties and the top four from the unions to be debated, thanks to the unions voting 2:1 in favour, with the parties voting 3:2 against. This effectively entrenches the current position. The Conference Arrangements Committee had proposed an alternative... (That's enough of this letter. Ed.)

Ealing comedy

Sir,

Whilst one has got to admire the former pupil's spirited defence of the wrecking of Little Ealing School, it is a flawed defence (1089).

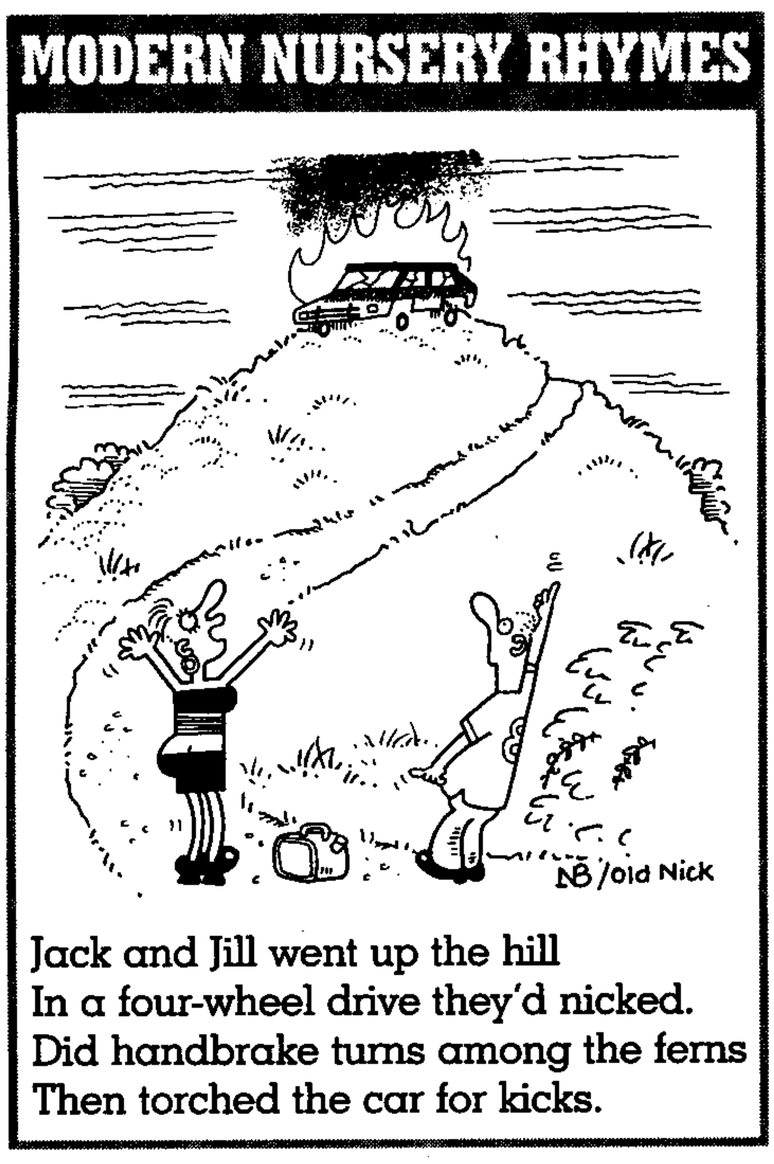
These wonderful so-called board schools relied greatly upon the design of their windows. Indeed without their windows much is lost.

Up until now, while houses up and down the country are being mutilated mainly by ghastly PVC windows, these schools remain largely intact. But not for much longer it seems.

If the Victorians did have access to extruded aluminium frames I'm sure they would have come up with something far more pleasing, given their concern for aesthetics of the buildings they built and designed, unlike today.

Regards,
COLIN TROTH,

Hall Green.


MODERN NURSERY RHYMES
NB/old Nick
Jack and Jill went up the hill
In a four-wheel drive they'd nicked.
Did handbrake turns among the ferns
Then torched the car for kicks.

Arabian gulf

Sir,

I read with interest your article concerning the divers who suffered severe chemical poisoning in Saudi Arabia (1090). One of the divers concerned is a member of my union, the Professional Divers Association, part of Amicus.

I would like to make clear I have asked the HSE diving division to take some interest in the increasing number of accidents and deaths of British divers working overseas; they say it is not part of their remit. I remember from my history studies Palmerston sending a gun boat to Greece to help Don Pacifico, a Greek, with British citizenship. I strongly believe our government should do more to protect such workers.

I believe also that the trade association, IMCA, the International Marine Contractors Association, of which Algosaibi is a member, must establish the cause of the accidents and if need be expel the offending member.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL COCKS,

London W11.

Lookalike

Portillo **Schwarzenegger**

Sir,

Arnold Schwarzenegger = Michael Portillo?

Yours,
EDWARD MENDELBLAT,

Pinner, Middlesex.

Speech impediment

Sir,

I was fascinated to read in your last issue that Jonathan Sumption QC was responsible for one of Keith Joseph's more impolitic speeches. I fear that, for once, you have been misinformed. The author of the disastrous oration, according to his own testimony, was none other than Sir Sheath himself.

Yours,
DR MARK GARNETT (co-author of Keith Joseph: A Life),

Address withheld.

LUVVIES

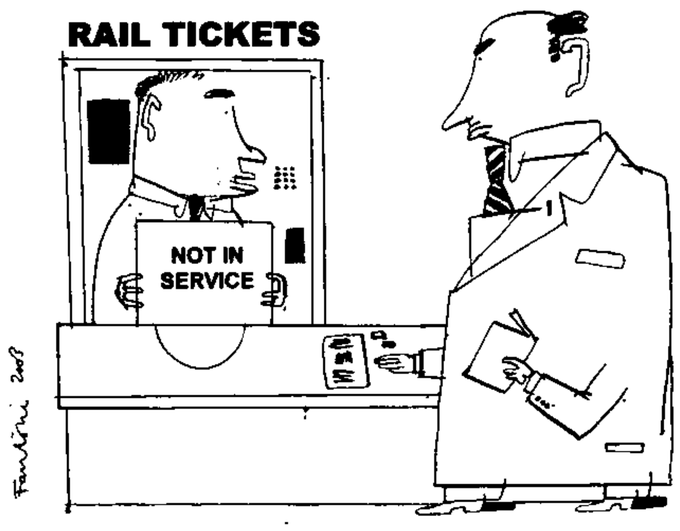
Lisa Kudrow told reporters recently that there are just a few things that really scare her. The 'Friends' star says that while she enjoyed spending the summer in France with her husband's family, she hated to shop. "Things are different," she explains. "We went to the market grocery shopping and there's no one to bag the groceries, and, to me, that's shocking... In some stores you have to bring your own bag or buy them."

entertainment.msn.com

Submitted by Doug Sanderson.

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

Scenes You Seldom See



"I'm just off for my break, but since you've been waiting so long I'll sort you out before I go"

Hot air or cool reason?

Sir,

Mr Nowell's remarks on "the observed and predicted levels" of man-made global warming are misleading. The observed warming was just 0.6°C in the last 100 years, a recovery from the Little Ice Age. There are no "predictions" for future warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced 40 scenarios or "possible" climate futures, not predictions, and warned that none was more likely to be correct than another and should not be used when deciding policy (TAR 2001). Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is not a pollutant; it is a trace gas vital to life on Earth. Of the 200 billion tonnes that enter the atmosphere every year, human activities contribute just 3 percent. Ice core research proves the previous four interglacials were warmer than today's and research by Monin et al (Science, Vol 291) reveals that in cases of past warming, the CO_2 increase came after the temperature rise.

The Jurassic Period endured levels of CO_2 nearly three times present levels with no fossil fuel burning. The Late Ordovician Period had levels of CO_2 much higher than today and, to confound the global warming myth, was also an Ice Age.

"Man-made global warming" must be the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on mankind. Of course, politicians love it; they can tax the air we breathe. Dr Martin apparently believes we can control the climate. Perhaps he thinks we should ratify the Kyoto Protocol to "Save the planet", but why does the treaty bind only developed nations to its draconian emission levels? Other nations will be free to produce whatever they want.

These will include China, India, Brazil and Mexico. But 82 percent of the projected emissions growth in coming years is from these countries. The truth is that the treaty is really about redistribution of wealth; it's political, not environmental. The proof is everywhere.

Yours faithfully,
ALWYN DAVIES,

Holywell, Flintshire.

Opera buffo

Sir,

Lunchtime O'Boulez's description of Tony Henry's "Classical" pop songs CD is another example of life imitating art.

I remember a hilarious French & Saunders sketch which involved Sarah Walker and Carl Davis doing "I Should Be So Lucky" sung operatically, complete with harpsichord and chamber orchestra.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MAGRATH,

Croydon.

5.15 THE WEAKEST LINK; (Txt) Party Conference Broadcast. By the Liberal Democrats. 3304637
Oxford Mail

Come again

Sir,

While generally spot-on about the publishing juggernaut known as Paulo Coelho, Bookworm was wrong to suggest that Coelho's latest, Eleven Minutes, *is his first to contain vivid descriptions of sexual conduct (Eye 1090). As I'm sure many clean, upstanding "spiritual travellers" have furtively noticed already, and Bookworm has overlooked, Coelho's* Veronika Decides to Die *(1999) contains a great deal of quality smut. Take this, for example, on p121 of the HarperCollins paperback:*

"Standing up, legs apart, Veronika was touching her genitals, her breasts, her hair, surrendering herself as she had never done before... In her imagination, she was making love with men of all skin colours – white, black, yellow – with homosexuals and beggars. She was anyone's and anyone could do anything to her..."

I think you get the picture. Incidentally, the life-changing message of this story is that masturbation cures depression. Food for thought, as I think you will agree...

Yours "wanting to die of orgasmic pleasure" (also p121),
ANDREW MITCHELL,

London NW9.

"Those are my private diaries! How dare you read them before they're serialised in the newspaper..."

We the jury

Sir,

"To add insult to injury, during his Old Bailey trial Montori was allowed to cross-examine Mrs Hannon after he had sacked three solicitors and two sets of barristers." (Stalking Point, 1090.)

Permission doesn't come into it. It is a common law right for parties in civil and criminal trials to represent themselves and judges have no discretion to prevent this.

Presumably, if it was a matter of adding "insult to injury", the "In The Back" team considers that Montori was obviously guilty and the case was a foregone conclusion, in which case why bother having a trial at all?

BERNARD GREENWOOD,
Legal Advisor & McKenzie Friend,

Via email.

Diving takes a dive

Sir,

Re: Graves Error, Letters, Eye 1090.

Mark Papp makes a good point about individual responsibility, however this does not absolve either the professionals or the more experienced members of the group of liability in this unfortunate affair.

It is extraordinary that Mr Bantin, an experienced and influential member of the group, has both here and, in a recent article in Diver magazine, advocated abandoning the buddy system of diving as inappropriate.

The buddy system has been the cornerstone of safe diving practice since the Royal Navy invented it in the 1800s. It is taught by all diver training agencies. Accident statistics speak for themselves; the majority of diving fatalities occur to divers on their own who have either intentionally or unintentionally separated from their buddies.

Newly qualified divers do not have a great deal of experience and can very easily be distracted by their environment and forget the basic safety tasks they have been taught, such as monitoring time, depth and air.

One would have hoped, given the reported incident involving Mr Graves earlier in the day, that either the professionals on board or one of the more experienced members of the group would have spoken with Mr Graves, and a more experienced member of the party been assigned as Mr Graves' buddy for subsequent dives.

For an experienced diver, diving with an inexperienced buddy is inconvenient, however this inconvenience is a small price to pay to prevent tragedies such as this.

My condolences to Mr Graves' family.

Yours faithfully,
A. FORRYAN,

Southampton.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"This is one of those matches where you feel neither player wants to lose."
JOHN VIRGO, BBC2
(Ian Breach)

"Derby County's chickens have literally come home to roost this season."
COLIN GIBSON, BBC Radio Derby
(D.C. Robinson)

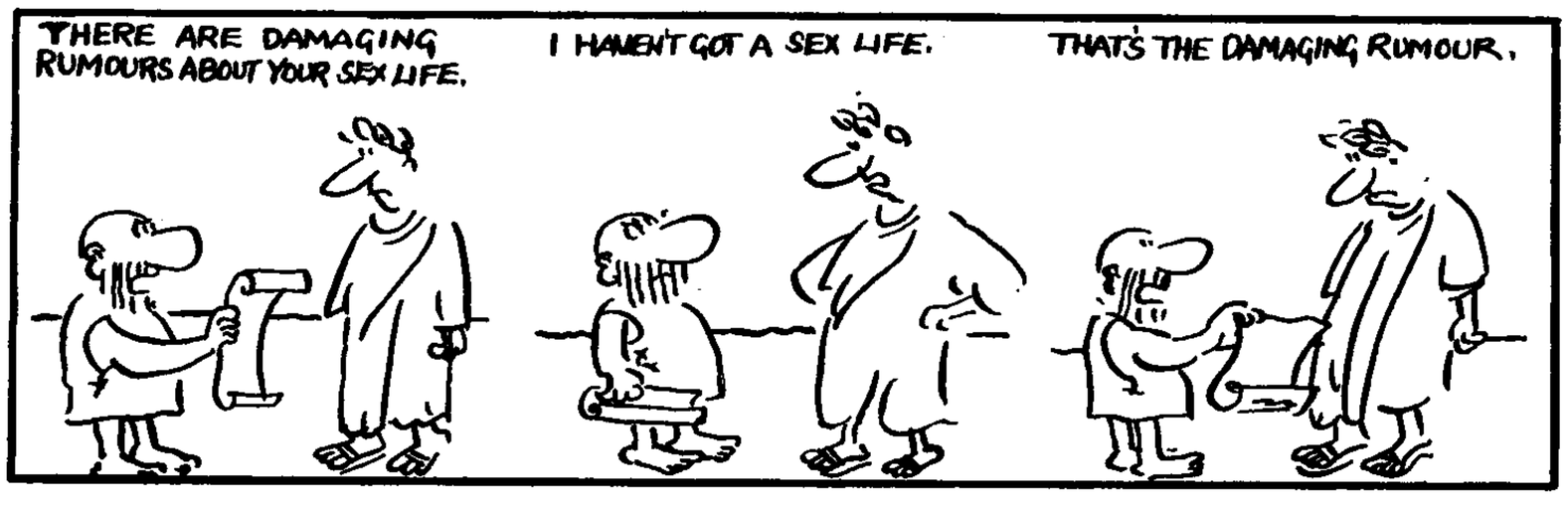
"If we had taken our chances we would have won, at least."
DAVID O'LEARY, ITV
(Brian Smith)

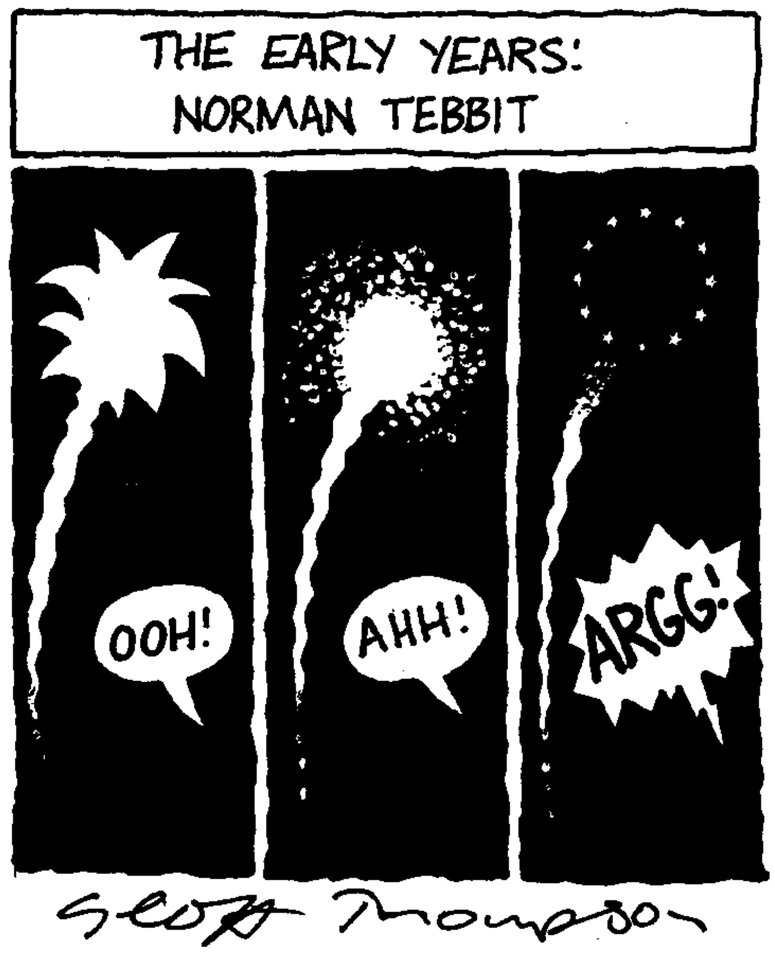
"Is there something that sticks out that makes you an exceptional pole-vaulter?"
ADRIAN CHILES (to Sergei Bubka), Radio 5 Live
(Steve Parkes)

"It's slightly alarming the way Manchester United decapitated against Stuttgart."
MARK LAWRENSON, Radio 5 Live
(Michael Eedy)

HOM SAP

AUSTIN





Same old Storey?

Sir,

Cllr Mike Storey, the leader of Liverpool City Council, has failed to justify the sale of music and irreplaceable reference works from Liverpool Public Library to the second hand market (Letters, 1087). Another home could and should have been found for the music. Manchester's Henry Watson Library now remains the only collection of its kind in the north of England.

The Catalogue of Liverpool Music Library (1954) outlines the history of the collection; founded 1859, expanded 1930, music rescued from the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, burned down in 1933, completely destroyed by German bombing in 1941. The most serious damage to the collection since 1941 has been perpetrated by the council itself.

Having bought several chamber music editions, I know from three of the preserved issue labels, that some of these editions were borrowed between 1956-1989, in some cases by interlibrary loan, through the lending division of the British Library at Boston Spa. The claim that none had been borrowed for 60 years is doubly preposterous, since the collection was only 60 years old in 2001.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRYANT,

Via email.

Sir,

I've read the (still) continuing letters about Mike Storey with some personal interest.

Twenty six years ago, while chairman of Liverpool education committee, he reduced local student discretionary grants to 65 percent of what I was getting on the dole, causing me (along with others, presumably) to alter my life plans, for which I am eternally ungrateful. It couldn't even be seen as a precursor of Blair's scrapping of all grants because no provision was provided to get money from other sources. Like Blair's measure, however, it probably saved a lot of money for the "taxpayer", so that's all right then. Culture my arse!

BRIAN DAUGHERTY,

Via email.

Cross words

Sir,

On p. 5 of Eye 1090, the Guardian's crossword setter is awarded the OBN for a clue which calls the Guardian "a champion paper". On p29 Cyclops, in the clue to 3 down, uses the words "great organ" to refer to the Eye. Brown nose yourself.

MICHAEL GROSVENOR-MYER,

Cambridge.

Letter from **Basra**
from Our Own Correspondent

IT'S COOLER here now and the evenings positively autumnal. Though the violence of the long hot summer has abated, the city is now plagued with an ugly rash of kidnappings and car-jackings.

Last week three men were murdered in the same night in a three-way blood feud between the tribes who run the north of our city. The same night the dean of the engineering faculty was shot dead – allegedly by the father of a female student refused her grades for cheating.

Last month gunmen of the Goramsha tribe, roughly what the Corleonesi used to be to central Palermo, tried to shut down Basra's favourite ice cream parlours. The move was thwarted when British soldiers shot dead two of their gunmen.

In the soukhs and markets of the old city it is a story of Ali Baba and the *40,000* Arthur Daleys. In the smart bazaars satellite dishes, camcorders and air conditioning units are stacked high on the roadside stalls, reflecting some form of economic life that is returning. Elsewhere the trade is in aluminium, copper and bronze, ripped from power stations and public buildings – which has left the power grid and water supply on the edge of collapse. Last August they did collapse, which led to two days serious rioting and shooting.

The deadline for the British commander, Major-General Graham Lamb, inevitable sobriquet "Lambo", is the onset of Ramadan at the end of this month. "Lambo", whose chosen recreation is roller-blading round the airport to Dire Straits and Elvis on his Walkman, has ordered an emergency programme to improve the services, crack down on crime and ensure there is enough food and water for the breaking of the fast each evening in Ramadan.

Crime is a bigger problem than the threats from Saddam loyalists, who have now struck up a strange alliance with the Wahabbite followers of bin Laden and al Qaeda who have been seeping across the border from Saudi Arabia – though not in significant number. The Shiites of Basra province have no reason to mourn the old regime – it killed 30,000 of them in the rising of 1991 and drove some 200,000 into exile. The leading Shiite cleric in town, Imam Said Ali Moussa, has decided to back you British for the time being – provided you get out soon.

The pre-Ramadan emergency programme is the beginning of an exit strategy for the Brits, though the Americans up the road in Baghdad don't like it much. And in Basra it is down to the Brits, because there is almost no other game in town. British officers and NCOs run the fledgling ministries and the four governorates of the region have been managed by four lieutenant-colonels.

There is one glaring difference between Basra and other recovering, war-torn cities like, say, Sarajevo, Kabul, Pristina and Bethlehem: a total absence of those smart off-terrain jeeps with whippy aerials and the blonde with the clipboard in the front seat so beloved by the UN and the NGOs. The UN has quit the area following the bombing of its Baghdad HQ in August and most NGOs have stayed away altogether. This month Basra's 1,700 schools opened without the promised help of "schools in a box" from UNICEF – the soldiers had rebuilt some and gave $500 for blackboards, furniture and teachers' pay to the rest.

In Basra officials like Mr Mossan ad Moharrar, director of welfare and head of a home for 300 orphans, doesn't think the UN will ever come back. This is bad news as next month the oil for food programme ends and is not likely to be renewed. The UN says its can supervise food and water distribution remotely from Kuwait. Last week one of its water tankers was found heading the wrong way to Kuwait with a load of smuggled oil aboard.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "Myiasis is thankfully a very rare condition," Dr Snehansu Pan told a press conference at Burdwan Medical College Hospital in West Bengal, "and this is the first case I have ever seen. It occurs mostly in South America, and we don't yet know how the insects first invaded Chandan's body. But they did, and he has now had live flies emerging from his genitals for the past four weeks."

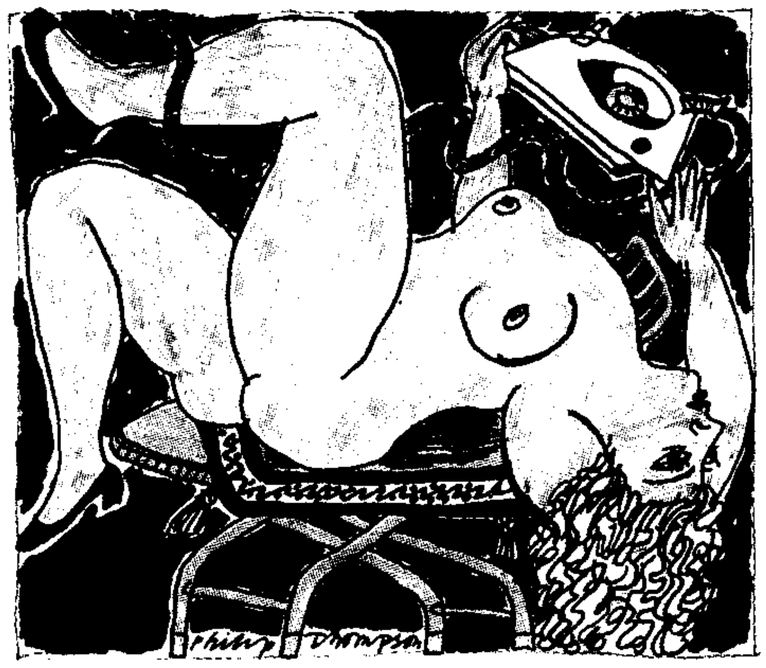
Dr Pan was speaking about the case of thirteen-year-old Chandan Goswami, whose unusual condition has baffled the medical community and fascinated the Indian media. "In myiasis, a body is invaded opportunistically by the larvae of certain types of fly. Once they got inside Chandan's body, they began hatching inside him, and are now making their exit through his urinary tract, and flying away at a rate of about five an hour. Despite performing a cystoscopy and washing out his urinary tract with ether and chloroform, the flies are still appearing, but we are in contact with South American doctors who have experience of this condition, and we are determined to cure it. And as it is such a rare case, we are providing the boy with accommodation, medicines, and food free of charge, so the family has no need to feel concerned."

Asked how they were feeling, Chandan's parents told reporters "No one believed us when we told them these flies were emerging from his toilet areas, until three or four flew out of a small hole. He's been here for sixteen days, and isn't getting any better. But the doctors keep telling us that this is quite normal, so we will have to be patient." *(Calcutta Telegraph, 23/6/03. Spotter: Nick Burgoyne)*

— ● —

● *"It's a celebration of nudity, and certainly not grubby," Christopher Taylor told reporters outside the unmarked front door of his Omnivision International business empire in High Street, Great Missenden. "We cater for a refined market, and I must stress that there is no sex on offer, just visual stimulation. Really, it's an excuse to have a naked lady in the house."*

Taylor was being interviewed about his advertisements which offer clients the chance to hire women to pose nude around their house. "For £115 an hour, you can hire a naked woman to pretend to carry out housework in different poses, dusting shelves, vacuuming, that sort of thing. We cater for the clean end of the market, for refined gentlemen, and are miles away from the sort of people who go to strip clubs. We're very high-class, and we also send a minder along to accompany the women, to ensure their safety. They won't do any actual cleaning though, unless you pay extra." Omnivision International are currently seeking to expand the number of women on their books by Christmas to 150, "to help create a Fantasy Land where all the female staff will be



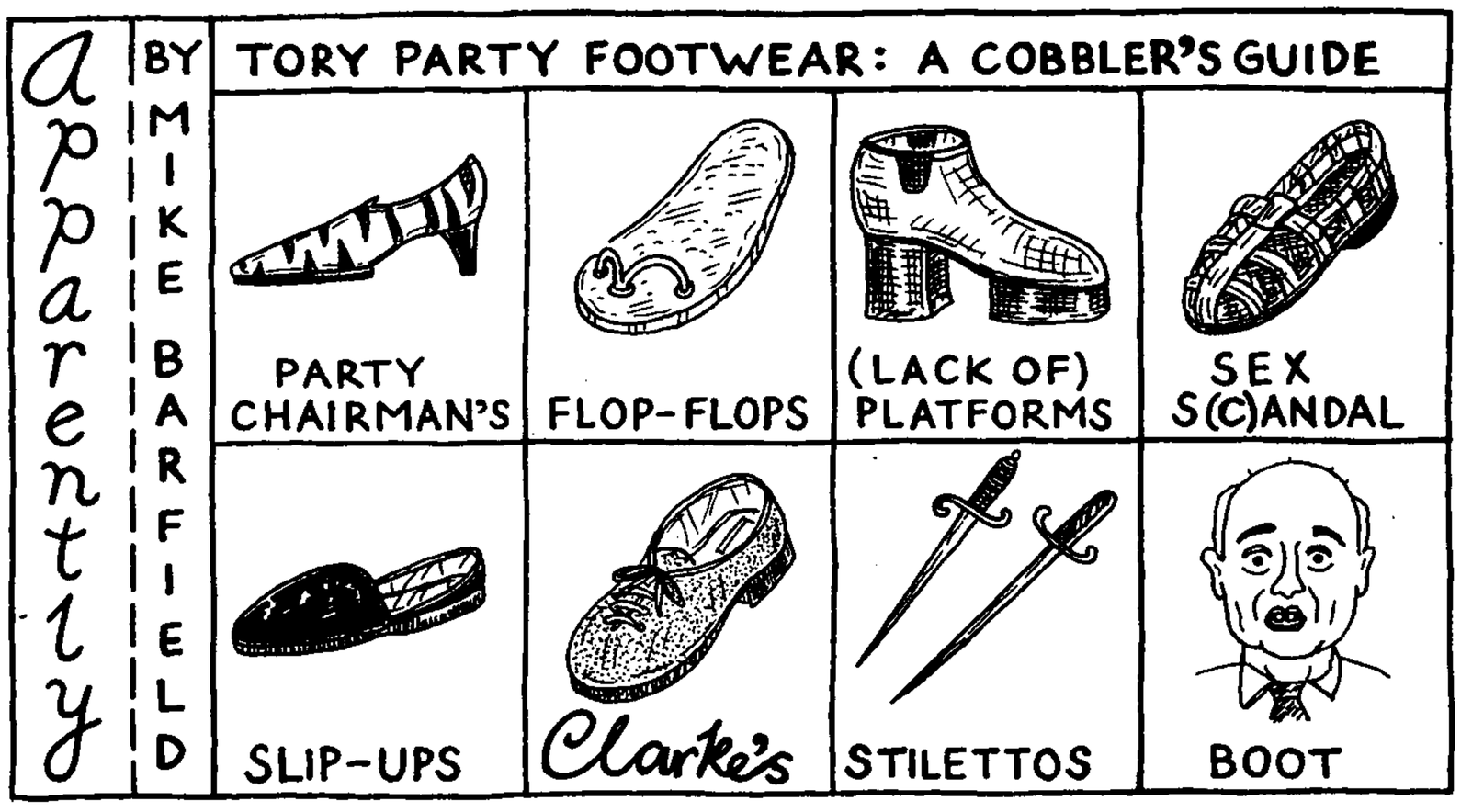
nude at all times when they are in the building." The company is believed to be some distance from achieving that goal. (Amersham Examiner, 14/8/03. Spotter: Chris and Rachel Tole)

— ● —

● "I was feeling homesick, and wanted to go back to my parents," Charles D. McKinley told transport officials in DeSoto, Texas, "but I didn't have any money for the fare. A friend suggested that if I flew as cargo, I could charge the $550 freight charge to my employer, so he helped seal me inside a crate, and I sent myself here door-to-door by special delivery. I kept thinking that somebody would hear the portable television I'd packed, but nobody spotted me, except for the delivery driver at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. He saw my eyes peering out between the slats, thought I was a pig, and kicked open the box. But by that time we were outside my parents' house, so I ran straight in and things were fine."

But McKinley's unusual method of transport caused outrage amongst the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, which advocates the arming of pilots against terrorists. "This is a huge security risk," said Captain Phillip Beall, "because a fuel-laden 767 full of crated humans could be commandeered and used in exactly the same way as the fuel-laden planes on September 11.

"Moreover, he's lucky that he flew in planes with pressurised heated cabins, otherwise he'd have died. And anyway, for $550, doesn't he realise that it would have been cheaper to fly first-class than travel in a box?" *(Bradenton Herald, 9/9/03)*



ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo

And I know there's only been one topic of conversation around the parish this week, which modesty would normally forbid me to mention!

But I gather there are still a number of parishioners who've been unable to see the video of my talk at our recent outing to the seaside at Bournemouth (despite Mr Mandelson's much-appreciated efforts to get a cassette to every home in the parish!).

Let me remind you of why my few 'well-chosen words' went down so well with all of you who were lucky enough to be in the hall!

Firstly, I was brave enough to admit that the past few months have not been easy for your vicar!

But, secondly, I made it clear I have been sustained all along by my unshakeable faith – my faith in myself.

That's what's important, isn't it, when we are put to the test in this life – we turn to the one person we know we can always rely on. Me. (And thank you all for cheering so loudly when I admitted that to you – that really meant a lot to me, I can tell you!)

You may remember I told a little story here about someone else who'd found himself in a similar position, when some of his closest followers had tried to betray him!

And, hey, he was sorely tempted to pack it all in, and let someone take on the responsibility for a change.

And don't we all have that 'take this cup away from me' moment at some time or another in our lives? Well, I don't obviously! I stick to my guns through thick and thin, regardless of what fainthearts like Mr Cook and Mrs Short may say!

And it was at this point in my talk that I was inspired to use the metaphor that had everyone on their feet cheering and cheering until I thought it would never stop!

"I don't do reverse gear!" I said. "I just put my foot down on the motorway of life (in the third lane, of course!) and don't stop until I've reached wherever it is we're going!"

Though I say it myself, I'm not surprised that everyone was kind enough to say on the bus going home that it was the best speech by anyone they had ever heard in their whole lives, and how completely it erased the unfortunate memory of the rather embarrassing performance by our parish treasurer the previous day!

I don't in any way wish to be personal or rude about Gordon's efforts, because I know he was trying his best to be helpful!

But, honestly, all that tired old stuff about how much better things were in the

old days (yawn!) may have gone down well with one or two of our very old parishioners! But, oh dear me, do we really want to go back to the old creed and all that dated language from the past, when we've spent all this time and effort bringing the parish up to date?

Could I extend my metaphor and suggest that poor old Gordon, God bless him, seems only to have one gear, and that is reverse!

Watch out everyone, Gordon's about to run you over! (Only joking, Gordon, no offence, but no wonder you were looking so miserable and didn't join in the clapping when Mr Mandelson was holding up his "Applaud or else!" board!

It's always embarrassing when someone makes a fool of themselves in public, but I do think we must all try to show some compassion and stop going on about it!

Yours,

Tony

To Remember In Your Prayers

● Our poor treasurer Mr Brown, who made such a fool of himself in public at our outing to the seaside. Let us pray that he will learn his lesson and not get ideas above his station, and that everyone else will not keep bringing it up at every opportunity! T.B.

MILLENNIUM TENT UPDATE

VERY GOOD NEWS! We have had a generous offer from a highly reputable American company called the Godfather Corporation of Las Vegas who have imaginative plans to turn the tent into a casino with slot machins, roulette wheels and other fun games for the whole family. (It will be "an amazing day out" for everyone, as Mr Gerbil used to say when he ran the tent!)

There is, however, a slight problem, in that the entire board of the American company are serving a prison sentence of 99 years, so it may be a little time before we can finalise the arrangements. So, in the meantime, may I ask everyone again not to use it as a dumping ground for old PCs, microwaves and fridges. P.M.

Service Of Thanksgiving For The Vicar's Deliverance

Thanks to everyone for the big turn out to our special thanksgiving service for the Vicar's deliverance from all his enemies. What a shame that this wonderful occasion should have been marred by the visiting preacher, Dr Williams, who struck what everyone felt was a wrong note by suggesting that I was "going to be called to account".

Let's face it, there are many people who will be called to account when the time comes and perhaps it would be unfair to name them, but false preachers from Wales with beards could well be to the forefront on judgement day!!

T.B.

FIGHT THE FLAB WITH THE VICAR!

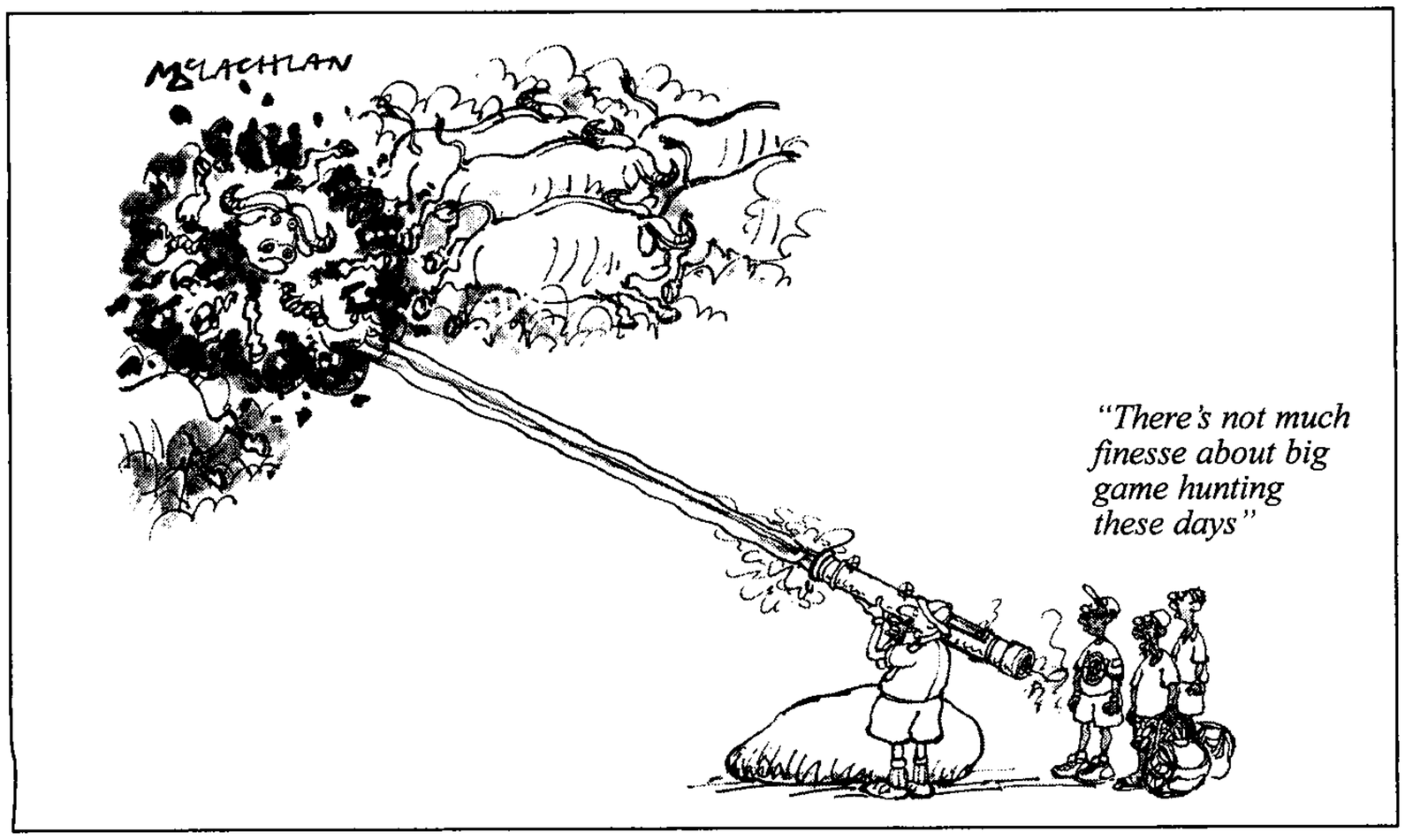
The parish is rapidly turning into a bunch of fatties!! So it's time for our portly parishioners (no offence, Mr Prescott!!) to follow the example of Cherie and myself and use the Caplin Holistic Pyramid Diet. As Carole says at our personal organic exercise sessions, "You can find your thinner self".

Here it is – Carole's three-step recipe to lose pounds:

1. Give the pounds to Carole
2. Er...
3. That's it.

(Are you sure this is right? Churchwarden and Acting Editor P. Mandelson)

The Vicar: Going nowhere fast!!



GLENDA SLAGG

FLEET STREET'S TERMINATOR!?! SHE'LL BE BACK!! (UNFORTUNATELY)

■ **SCHWARZENEGGER!!? Arnie-tchasickofhim?! (Geddit?!) Just 'cause he's got muscles the size of melons, this hulking hunk from the land of Hitler thinks he has a god-given right to go round a-grabbin' and a-gropin' the gals!?! What a disgrace!?! They should terminate him before he rapes every woman in California!? Come on, Dubya – put him on Death Row before it's too late!?!?!**

■ ARNIE – don'tchaluvhim?!? He gets MY vote?!?! With his muscles the size of melons, this handsome hunk from the land of the Blue Danube is just what California needs!?!! OK, so he flirts with the gals but what hot-blooded bimbo wouldn't mind Arnie a-humpin' and a-pumpin' his iron round at her place!?!? (Geddit?!) California here I come!?! Yessiree!?!?

■ *HATS OFF to 17-year-old soccer wonderboy Wayne Rooney?!? This have-a-go hero restored England's pride by punching a Turkish footballer in the tunnel – and for why?!? 'Cos he insulted Becks!!?! Come on, Mr Blair – give him the OBE now!?!?!*

■ **WAYNE ROONEY?!?! Doesn't he make you ashamed to be putting on an England shirt and flying the flag of St George from your white transit van as you have a few beers and run over a toddler** *(Is this right? Ed.)* **This overpaid soccer thug decided to take the law into his own hands by thumping up some Turkish player when the cameras weren't looking!?!? Give him the boot, Sven, preferably in the face like Fergie and Becks – remember?!?**

■ *SEEN* Kill Bill*?!? Me too... Z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z--z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z!?!?!?*

■ HERE THEY ARE – Glenda's Fall Guys!!! (Geddit?!?)

● **Oliver Letwin** – I'd like to go on a desert island far, far away with you, big boy!?!?!

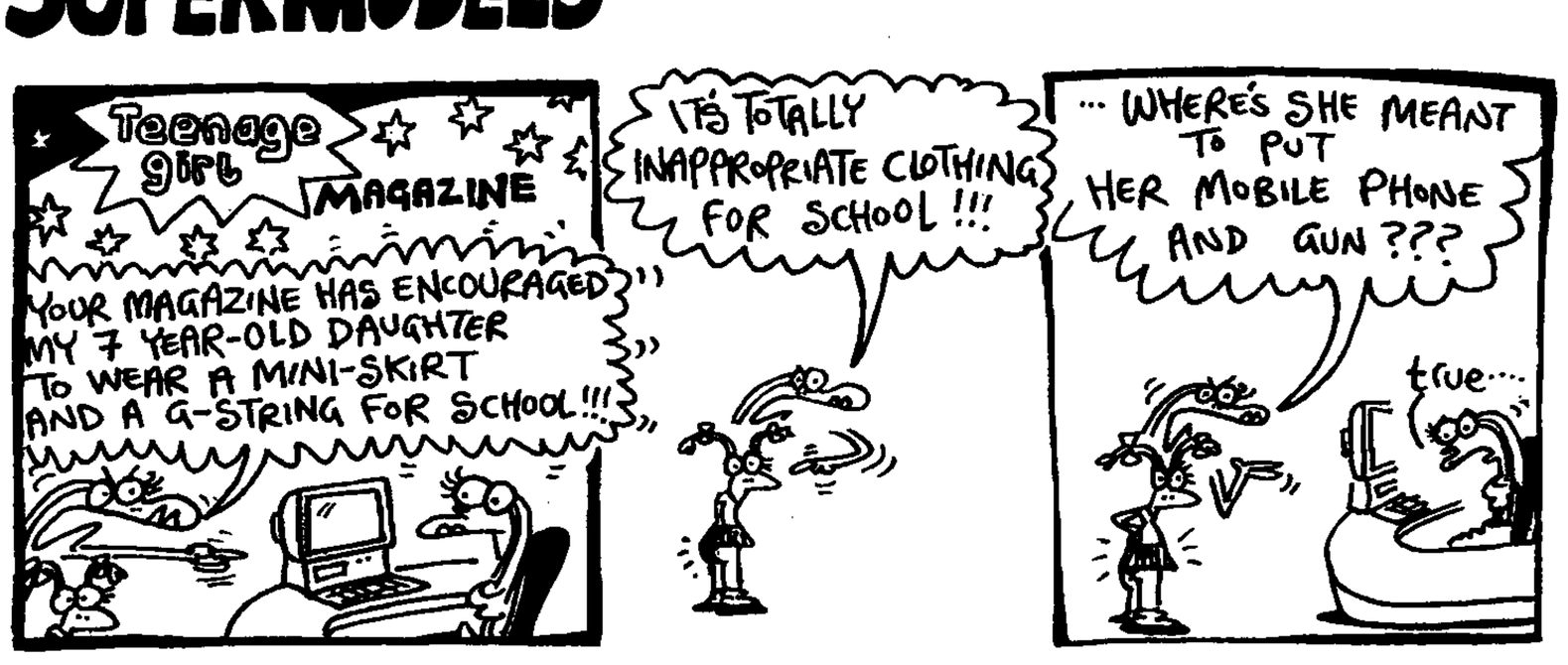
● **Charles Moore** – The *Telegraph*'s Lord Snooty!?!? OK, he's been given the sack – well, I've got a sack you can slip into any time, Charlie?!?!?!

● **John Paul II** – OK, you didn't get the Nobel Peace Prize!?!? Fancy coming round for a bit of consolation?!?!?! Know what I mean?!? You're my Pope Idol!!?! Geddit?!?!

Byeeee!!!

SUPERMODELS

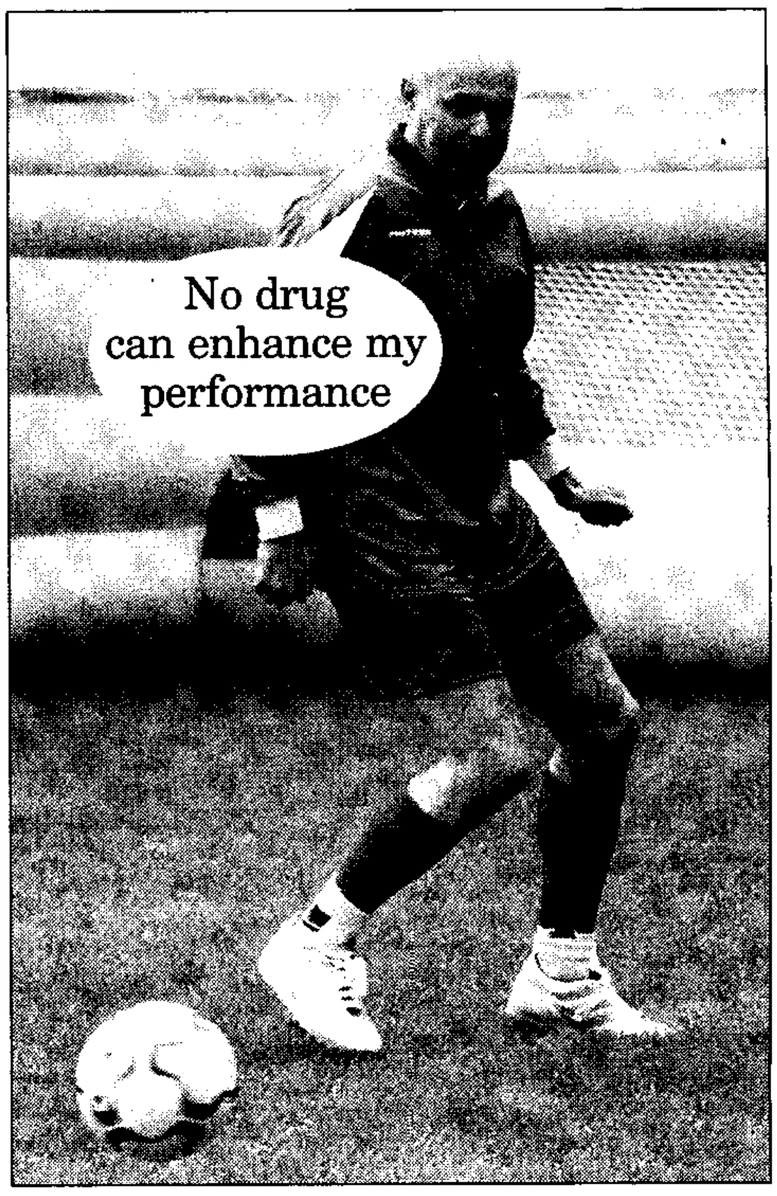
KERBER


Teenage girl MAGAZINE
YOUR MAGAZINE HAS ENCOURAGED MY 7 YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER TO WEAR A MINI-SKIRT AND A G-STRING FOR SCHOOL!!!
IT'S TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR SCHOOL !!!
... WHERE'S SHE MEANT TO PUT HER MOBILE PHONE AND GUN ???
true....

EXCLUSIVE TO ALL PAPERS

ENGLAND WIN RUGBY – BECKHAM NOT INVOLVED

IDS PASSES DOPE TEST



"I wish I could make more movies. The fact that I have some lines on my face, that's it. It's not because I lost my talent or I became deformed" – **Melanie Griffith, who is starring in the Broadway production of Chicago.**

Lincolnshire Echo

Pope sells 23 pubs to ease huge debt

Daily Echo, Bournemouth

GRANADA CARLTON MERGER HERALDS NEW DAWN FOR ITV

by Our Television Staff **Anthea Turnover**

THE much-heralded merger of the two biggest independent broadcasting companies signals a return to quality television, says no one. "It's good news for the viewers," added nobody.

Drama will be high on the list of priorities at the Granada/Carlton conglomerate, commented no insiders, and a flagship new series has already been commissioned for the slot in between the soaps and the adverts, entitled 'Bottom of the Barrel'.

Michael Greed

This is described as a hard-hitting police series, featuring Detective Inspector Bottom of the 'Barrel Squad', an elite group of officers who carry double-barrelled shotguns.

Each week, 'Bottom of the Barrel' has to solve a crime involving rotting corpses, gangland violence, paedophilia, rape and incest, all laced with down-to-earth humour and shaky camera work.

Charles Alloadarubbish

It is from the makers of last year's non-award-winning detective series 'Chalk and Cheese', which focused on the differing personalities of graduate high-flier Inspector Linda Chalk and bluff northern sergeant Ray Cheese.

Said the writer, Phil Slotz, 'Bottom of the Barrel' is British television at its finest and I am hoping that it will repeat the success of 'Chalk and Cheese' and also that of my previous series 'Lowest Common Denominator', which was about a law firm run by Simon Lowest, Judith Common and Ashok Denominator which *(That's enough ITV rubbish. Ed.)*

CONTRACEPTION NEWS

SCIENTISTS working on the new male contraceptive pill say that clinical trials reveal it to have been 100% successful with no side effects.

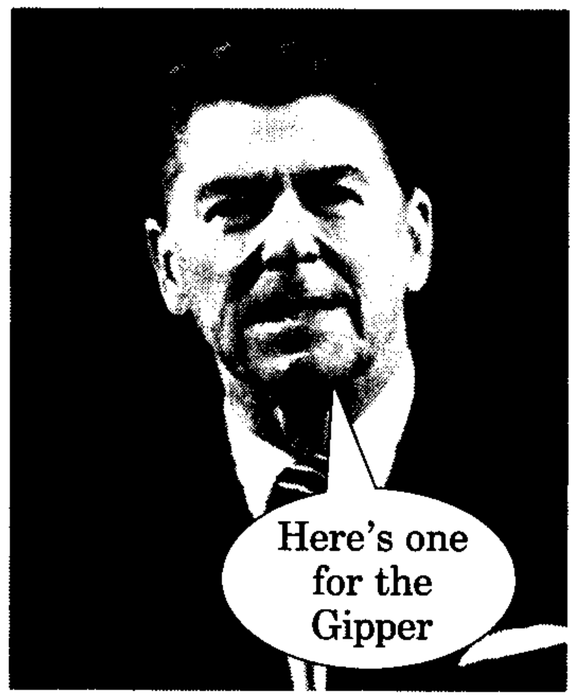
"None of the men taking part in the trials experienced vomiting, diarrhoea or abdominal pains, and, even better, not one of them has so far fallen pregnant," said a delighted professor... *(cont. p. 94)*

5 GO TO IRAQ

"Julian, Dick, Ann – Timmy has found the WMDs!"

THEN AND NOW

Governor of California 1966



Governor of California 2003

POLLY FILLER

On the Male Contraceptive Pill

COME on, girls, ask yourself this: would *you* trust your useless partner to remember to take the Pill? The same useless partner who can't remember your birthday or how to work the washing machine or where the cheese grater lives in the kitchen or what year his son is in at Tweedledums Nursery or the name of the au pair (Ndala for your information, Simon, not Uzbal who was the one before last and who came from a completely different war zone, ok?). Where was I? Oh yes... who can't remember to put the wheelie bin out on Tuesday evening or to record *Sex and the City* instead of *Australian Rules Backgammon* from Queensland presented by Paul Hogan and A.A. Gill or to put your dirty socks in the laundry basket which happens to be standing on the landing where it has been for the last five years...

DO you see what I'm getting at? Do you, girls? The only way the useless Simon would ever remember to take the male Pill was if it came in a can and tasted of lager! And even then he'd probably doze off in front of the television and spill it all over himself like he did last night! Remember, Simon? Probably not – which proves my point about men remembering things *exactly*!

Look, don't get me wrong. Men are good at remembering some things – like lying around and doing nothing. But as for anything else – forget it!!! Which is precisely what they would do with the Pill!!!!!

© *Polly Filler 2003.*

IDIOTS ELECT CELEB

by Our Political Staff
Holly Wood

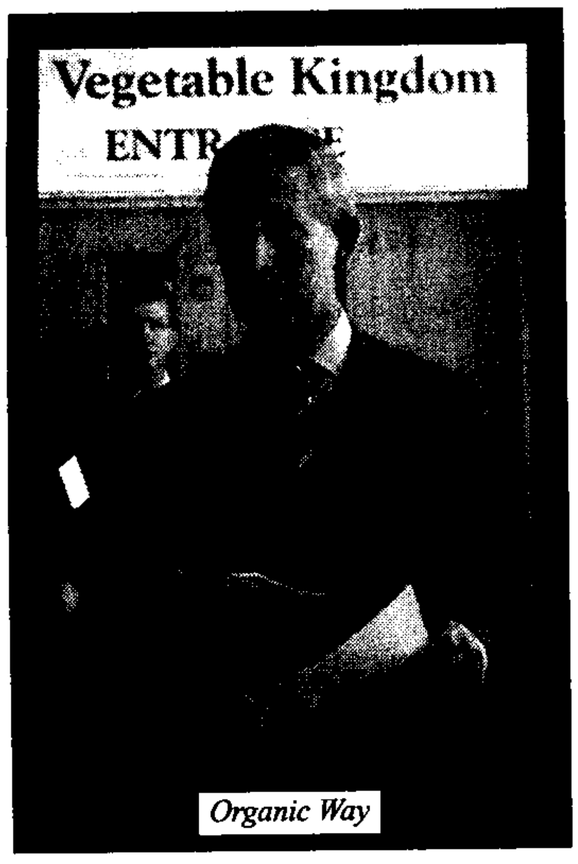
NO ONE was surprised last night when a celebrity was elected Governor of California by a large majority of idiots.

Said one idiot, "I have seen the celebrity on video blowing things up which makes him the obvious choice to manage the economy of California."

Making his inaugural address, the celebrity said, "Vere iss my script?" as the crowd cheered.

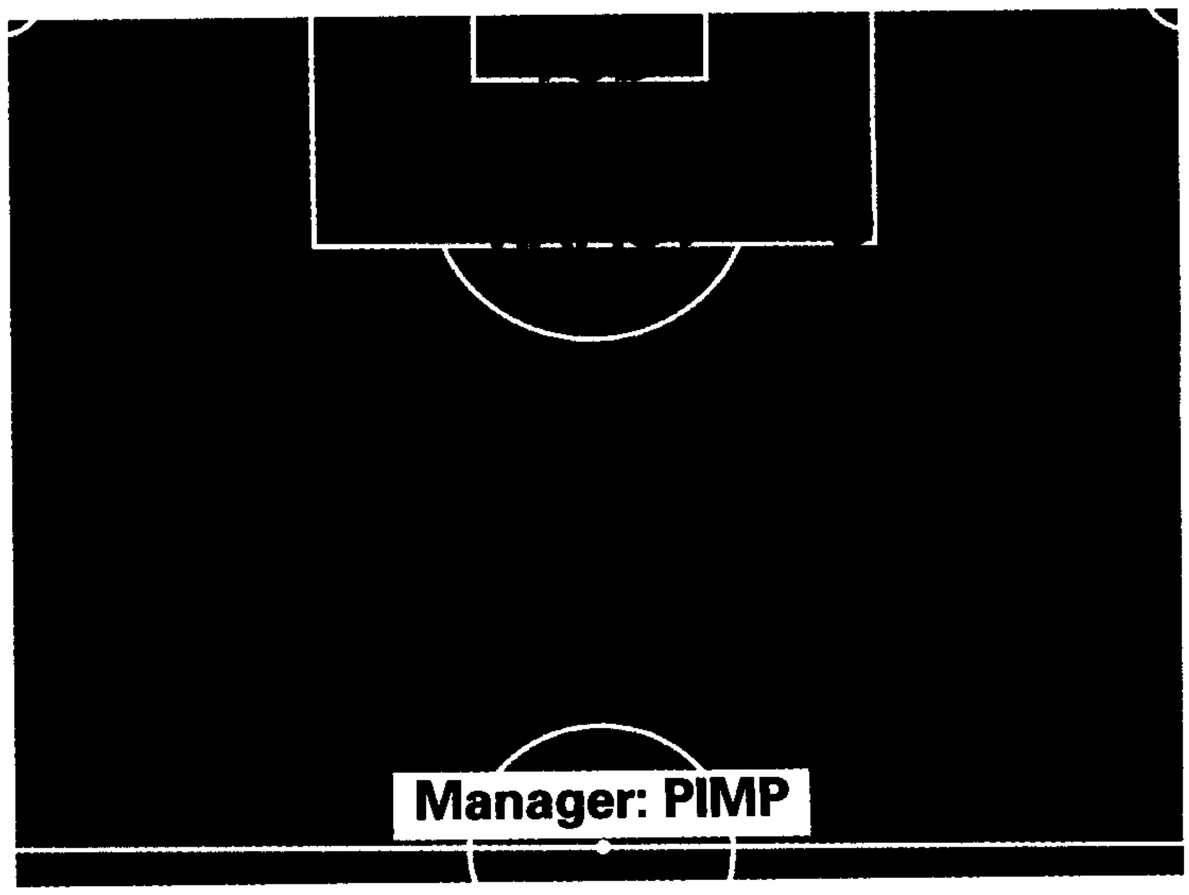
He later promised women reporters that "Mine vill be a hands-on administration."

Celeb 117,638,433
Politicians 0



"Mr Corbett put his hand up my clothes"

THAT PREMIERSHIP TEAM – LAST-MINUTE CHANGES



MATCH OF THE DAY

Lineker: And joining me in the studio for a bit of expert analysis is Inspector Knacker of the Serious Crime Squad. Inspector, how do you feel it's going so far?

Knacker: Well, Gary, we're still very much hoping the lads will get a result.

Lineker: Do you think it will go to penalties?

Knacker: Well, it's too early to say, Gary, but it's an open gaol and we're looking to put seven away.

Lineker: I suppose it's all about getting players into the box...

Knacker: ...yes, Gary, once they're in the witness box, we can break through the defence and put them in the back of the van.

Lineker: Thank you, Inspector Knacker. And if you don't want to hear anything about football ever again, look away now.

Next Week: DNA Match of the Day with the Chief Pathologist

Exclusive To The Daily Telegraph Comment Page

Those Remarkable Similarities Between Iain Duncan Smith and Arnold Schwarzenegger In Full

1. Both have a last name starting in S.

2. Both are hugely rich, charismatic movie stars (apart from Iain Duncan Smith).

3. Er...

4. That's it.

THAT BUSH FAST FOOD MEAL IN FULL

THE Sun SAYS

WHAT on earth has happened to our national sport? Why oh why has football sunk so low?

The answer is simple. There is too much money washing around in the hands of young men who haven't a clue what to do with it.

And what is the source of this obscene shower of wealth which has corrupted and degraded the once-beautiful game that Britain gave the world?

It does not take a rocket scientist to work out who is to blame.

Step forward BSky B, and its evil owner. *(You're fired. R.W.)*

Who has turned these yobs into heroes? Who has given them the licence to be obsessed with sex and money?

It does not take a rocket scientist to work out who is to blame.

Step forward Britain's gutter press, led by the worst offender of all, the Sun newspaper. *(You're fired again. R.W.)*

Buy a Sky dish and win a night in a top London hotel with seven of Britain's top Premiership footballers 94, 95, 96.

PLUS **Page 3's soccer lovely – she's only 17 and she's already got her kit off just for you** 3

PLUS **Read the Sun's top columnist Rio Ferdinand, as he writes about Britain's hopes in the rugby world cup** 9

(Everyone is fired except me. R.W.)

FOOTBALL IN CRISIS

A Special 24-Page Eye Investigation Into What's Gone Wrong With The Beautiful Game

Top commentators give their view

The Barbarians At The Gate

by Brian R. Sewell

(Winner of the Peregrine Worsthorne Best Essay Award 2001)

WHAT could be more disagreeable than the idea of eleven sweaty members of the working classes, probably high on drugs and certainly grotesquely overpaid, being held up as some kind of role models in our sadly disintegrating culture?

The idea that these totally uncouth and unattractive young men, scarcely more than adolescents, and all of them pitifully ill-educated, should be allowed to run amok in the hotels of Park Lane, is obscene. Why should these testosterone-fuelled youths take it as their god-given right to emulate the worst excesses of the barbarian hordes, as so memorably depicted in the recently restored masterpiece *The Rape of Bruges* by The Master of Keown, currently on show at the *(cont'd. p. 94)*

The Posh Boys Are Worse

says Johann Sparti

(Winner of the Jayson Blair Best Essay Award 2001)

HOW typical of the media to focus solely on the members of the underclass.

When I was at Cambridge, the entire city was terrorised by upper-class Hooray Henrys who spent their time swilling champagne and snorting coke before going out into the streets to beat up local working-class youths and rape innocent townswomen before throwing them into the river where they all drowned.

Yet this was dismissed as no more than "youthful hi-jinks" and "undergraduate high spirits".

Truly there is one law for the rich, and another for the poor footballers who *(cont'd. p. 94)*

Snob Yobs

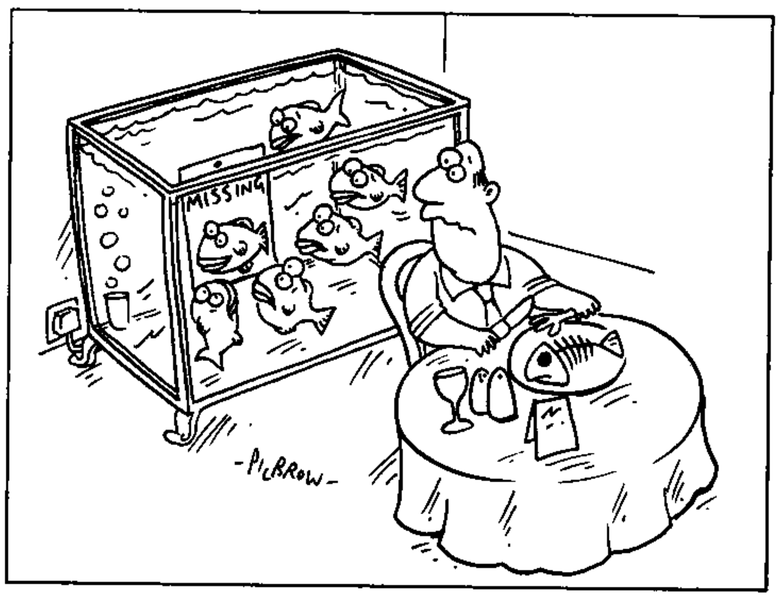
by Polly Technic

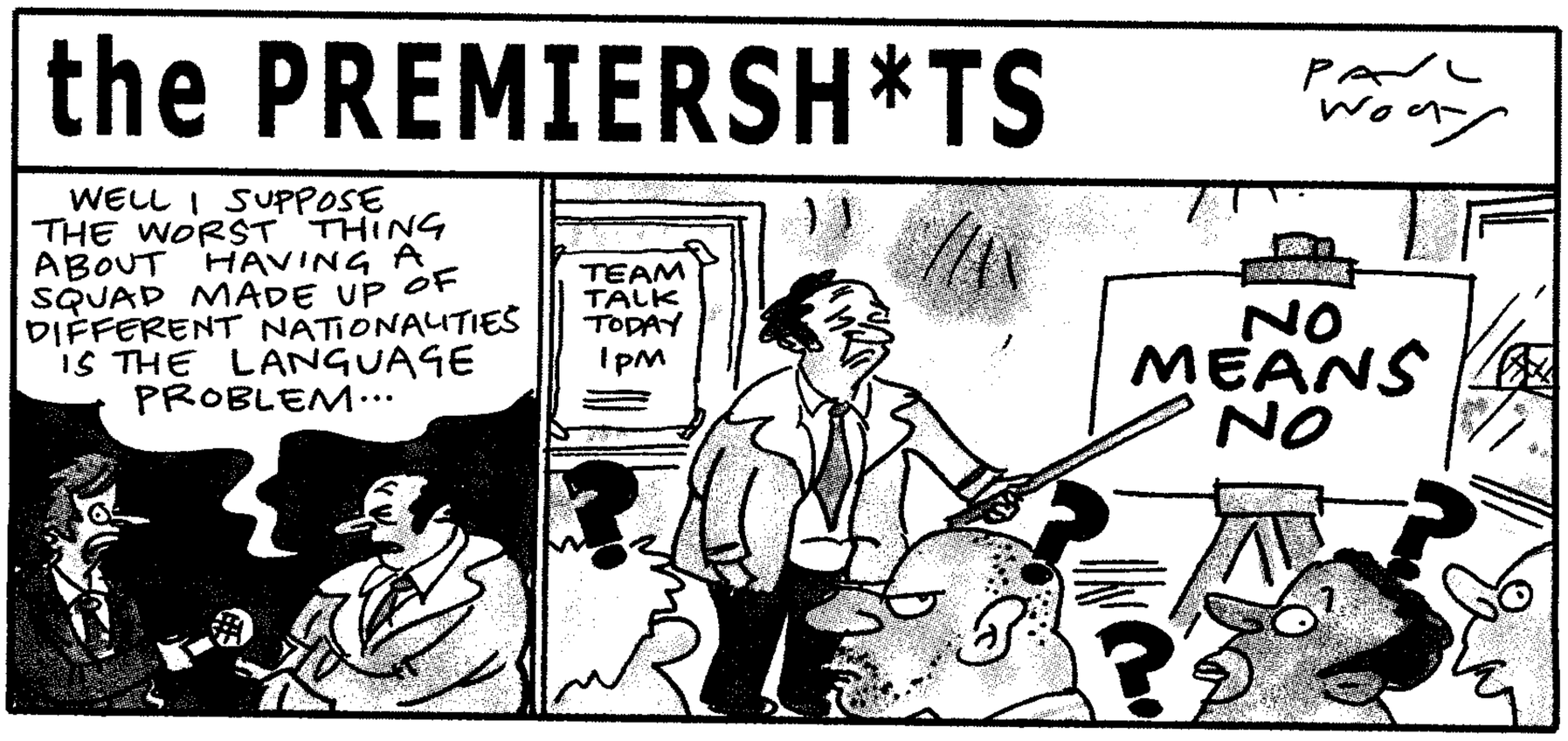
(now the University of Polly Toynbee)

THE disgusting behaviour of the Premier League footballers has shocked the nation.

But what about the revolting behaviour of all those old Etonians like Prince Harry, Lord Frederick Windsor, Tom Parker-Bowles and Charles Moore? *(Are you sure about this? Ed.)* Why aren't they under arrest for rape and murder too?

And why has Eton not been closed down on the grounds of failing to *(That's enough. Ed.)*




the PREMIERSH*TS
PAUL WOOLEY
WELL I SUPPOSE THE WORST THING ABOUT HAVING A SQUAD MADE UP OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES IS THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM...
TEAM TALK TODAY 1PM
NO MEANS NO

News In Brief

SHOCK RAIL NEWS

THE Government has announced that Jarvis will no longer be not carrying out the day to day maintenance of Britain's rail network.

"While we appreciate the excellent record Jarvis has for not carrying out this work day after day after day," said a Network Rail spokesman, "and we accept that their reputation for shoddiness is second to none, we believe that the work can be just as incompetently carried out in-house."

BLACKPOOL 2003 Conference Highlights

Theresa May Wows Delegates With Amazing Speech *(Surely 'Shoes'? Ed.)*

PARTY CHAIRMAN Mrs May had delegates cheering in the aisles with a succession of brilliant, off-the-cuff references to her shoes.

"Have you all noticed my shoes yet?" she opened her speech, to wild applause.

A few minutes further on, she asked her audience, "Do you likes these new shoes I'm wearing?". "Get them off!" screamed a hysterically appreciative crowd of over three people who had crammed Blackpool's mortuary *(surely 'conference hall? Ed.)*.

But Mrs May had saved her most successful sally for the climax of her two-hour rallying call to delegates, when she asked, "Do my feet look big in these?" pointing to her zebra-skin-style bedroom slippers.

No wonder delegates gave her a standing ovation, as they leaped to their feet and headed for the exits.

Howard's Shock Tax Pledge Has Conference Smiling

Tory heavyweight Michael Howard wowed both delegates (Sid and Boris Johnson) when he promised to turn the Tories into the 'Cut Tax And Spend More' Party.

Howard promised two million bobbies on every beat, ten million new hospitals in every city, every child to have its own personal teacher and a 100 percent cut in income tax.

When asked how he would make the sums add up, Mr Howard replied "It's very simple. We're never going to be in power, so I can say anything I like."

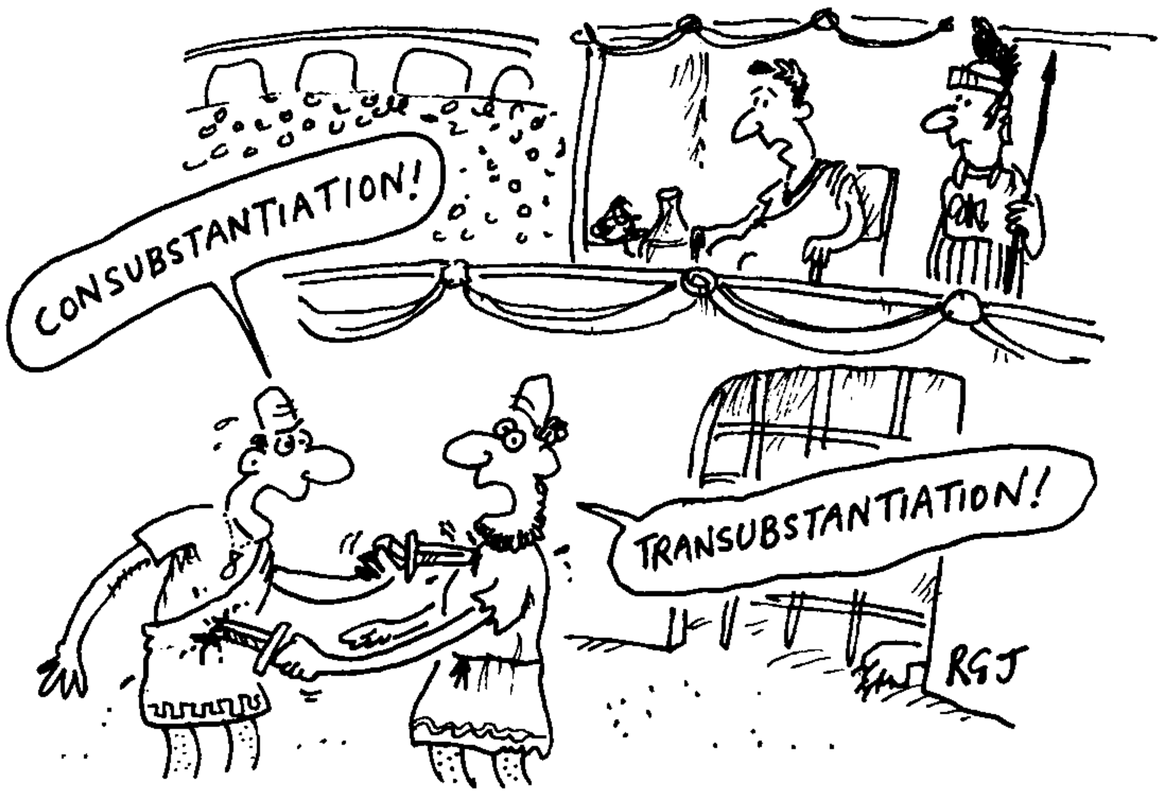
Letwin 'Solves' Problem Of Asylum Seekers

Shadow Home Secretary Oliver Nitwit yesterday unveiled his astonishing new top-secret plan for solving Britain's mounting immigration crisis.

"I've got a jolly good idea," Cantwin told the last remaining delegate. "Somewhere in the world I bet there's a huge, great, big island, like you see in cartoons, with palm trees and coconuts and sandy beaches.

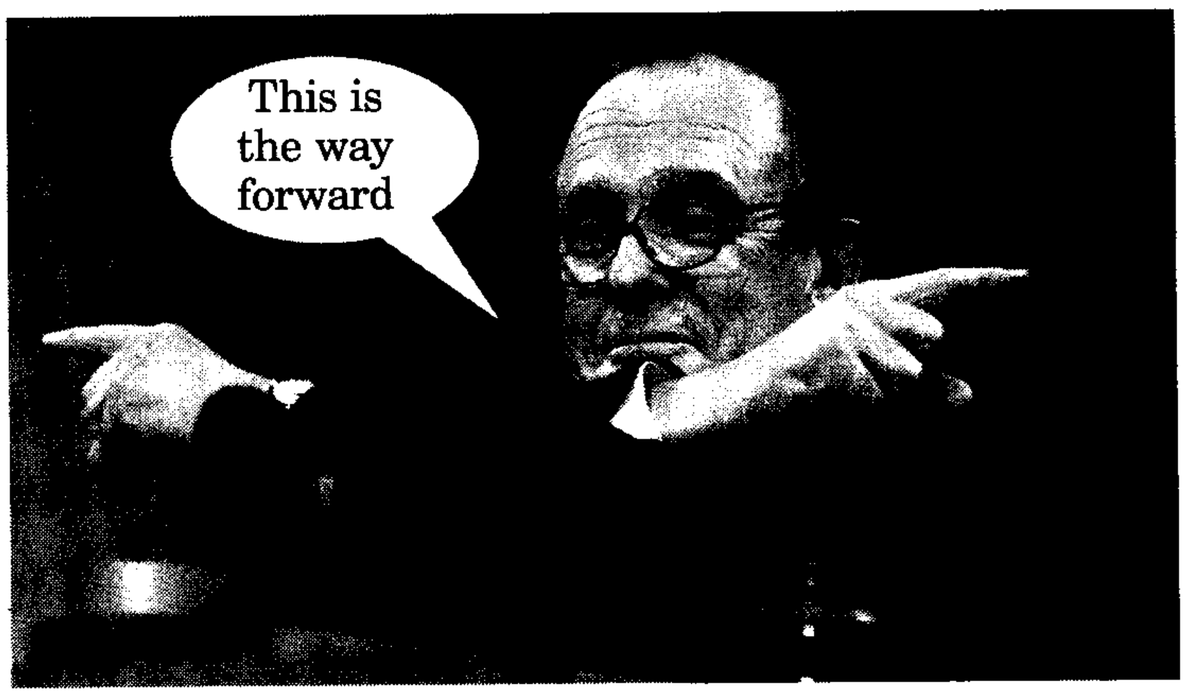
"Well, my policy is that we should put all the asylum seekers on this island and keep them there, until we've decided what to do with them. And, in the meantime, it wouldn't cost the taxpayer anything because the asylum seekers could live on the coconuts and that sort of thing."

Asked by the delegate, Mr Ibrahim Al-Milosevic, formerly of Tirana, who had just joined the Tory Party in the hope of becoming their leader, how he was going to finance his innovative scheme, Mr Letslose said, "I refer you to the answer given by my Rt. Hon. friend Michael Howard, ie since we're never going to be in power again, we can say whatever comes into our heads."



"Bloody Christian martyrs... before you can release the lions they split into factions and murder each other"

ANCRAM SPELLS IT OUT

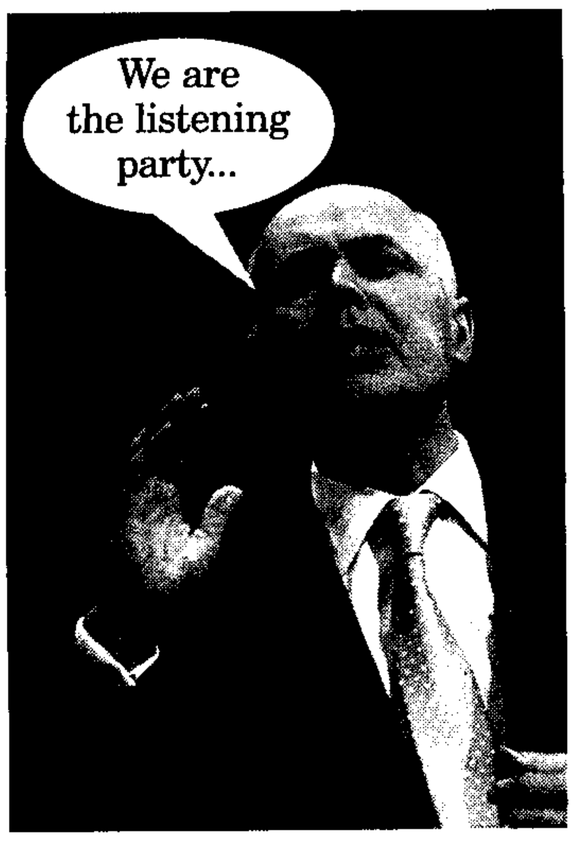


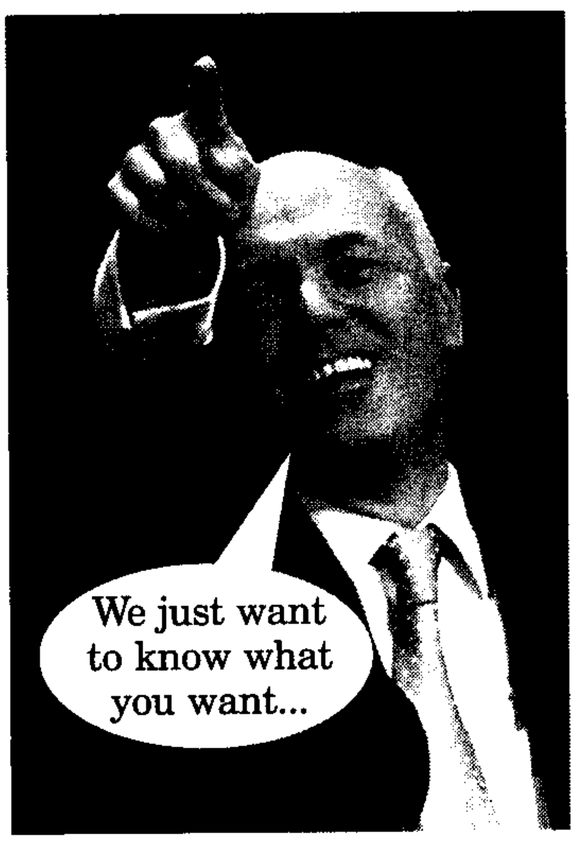
EXCLUSIVE TO ALL PAPERS

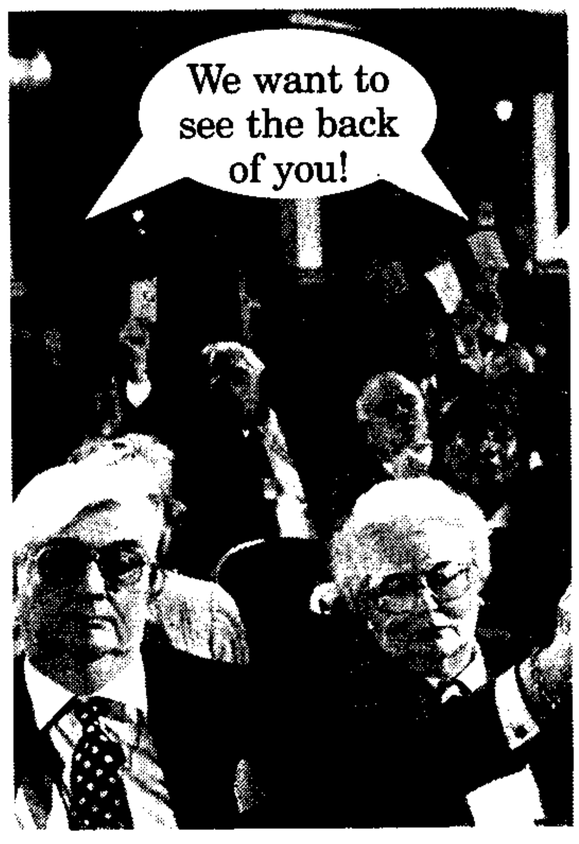
AN APOLOGY

IN THE COURSE of the last two years we may have given the impression that Iain Duncan Smith was failing in his duties as leader of the opposition. We may have said that his stumbling oratory, his polite approach to his opponents and his lack of sense of humour were all contributing to this failure.

We now realise in the light of his performance at the Tory Conference that Iain Duncan Smith was quite right to behave in this way all along and the fact that he is now being rude about Tony Blair and making jokes about Charles Kennedy in his speech means that he has descended into the gutter and soured the political life of this country for ever and might even get a few more votes ***(cont'd. p. 94)***







TORIES ANGRILY DENY CLAIMS

THE TORY Party today angrily denied allegations thought to be included in a 'Newsnight' investigation that since his election, Iain Duncan Smith had been employed in the Leader of the Opposition's office as Leader of the Opposition.

"The BBC knows full well there is not a scrap of evidence that Iain Duncan Smith has ever been leader of this party," said a clearly angry party chairman Theresa May, "and we'll sue anyone who repeats these baseless allegations."

Book Of The Month

OLD WOMEN

by A. Boy

FOR MILLENNIA, young boys have been denied the right to feast their eyes on women in their mid-60s.

The Church, the State and the whole patriarchal establishment have ruthlessly tried to suppress one of the most natural of all human erotic desires – that of a young, beautiful boy for, say, an elderly, female Cambridge professor.

Very Greery

This work of scholarship traces the history of this forbidden attraction right back to the famous

erotic paintings of Quentin Massys including *(above)* 'The Old Bag Planting Cabbages On The Edge Of The M11' and *(That's enough. Ed.)*

Poetry Corner
with Sir Trevor Barbados

The Burial Of Sir Charles Moore

by Conrad Black

AS A BOY in Trinidad, I was taught to recite this poem about the end of one of Britain's greatest heroes, who had just won a great victory in the circulation war against the Times (1996-2003).

It seemed to sum up the British attitude to being sacked in a wonderfully inspiring way.

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,
As the message came through from Lord Black.
There on the screen was the email he wrote –
"Clear your desk, Moore, you've just got the sack."

Young Moore's face turned as white as a funeral shroud,
And a tear slipped down from his eye.
"That's jolly unfair!" he cried aloud,
"Pray, what is the reason why?"

"The answer is simple, my dear Mr Moore,"
Came back the reply from his boss.
"The sales of our paper have gone through the floor,
And your pages are brim-full of dross."

Moore gasped and then sobbed and then stifled a sigh
As he vanished away in the night.
With his crumpled plus-fours and egg-stained school tie,
Poor Charles was a pitiful sight.

What on earth could he say, if asked by a hack?
What excuse could he possibly hatch?
"I know – I'll say that it wasn't the sack.
I had to leave because I had this tremendously important book to finish about Mrs Thatch."

DISGUSTING SCENES IN HOTEL SHOCK THE NATION

by Our Political Staff **Peter O'Bore**

WE CAN reveal that a group of some of Britain's best-known and most highly-paid Conservative politicians were last week involved in a three-day orgy of abuse in one of the most prestigious hotels in Blackpool.

The victim of this "outrageous and horrifying" attack could not be named, although it is believed that he was Iain Duncan Cough, an innocent, 57-year-old party leader, who had earlier checked in under the name of "Mr Smith".

Appalling

Hotel staff claim that they witnessed a number of well known Tories "drinking heavily" in the hotel's George Best Bar, before going upstairs to give Mr Cough a "roasting".

Friends of the men involved deny the claims that anything untoward had happened in the hotel.

"He was asking for it," said one senior Shadow Cabinet minister last night, "by being so useless and pathetic.

"He knew what sort of people he was mixing with, and he knew we weren't in Blackpool just for a party conference."

But this latest outrage is only the latest in a long line of sordid incidents which in recent years have brought the name of Britain's once 'beautiful Party' into the gutter.

Repulsive

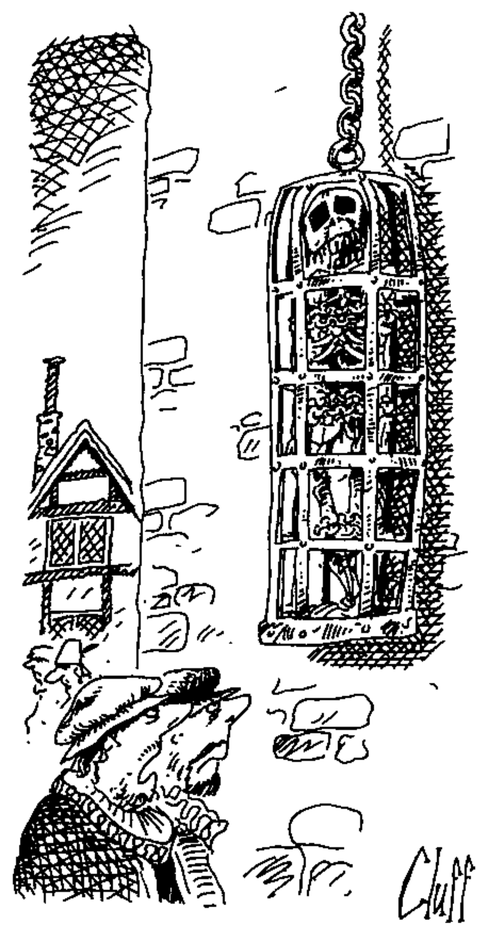
In 1990, an elderly woman was savagely mugged by two of the stars of the day, Mike Heseltine and Geoff Howe, and never recovered from the injuries they suffered.

In 1997, hundreds of screaming Tories viciously set upon a pathetic South London man with glasses, again claiming that he had "asked for it" with his cones hot-line.

A young Yorkshire boy suffered the same fate in 2001, pleading that he never wanted "to live through anything like this again".

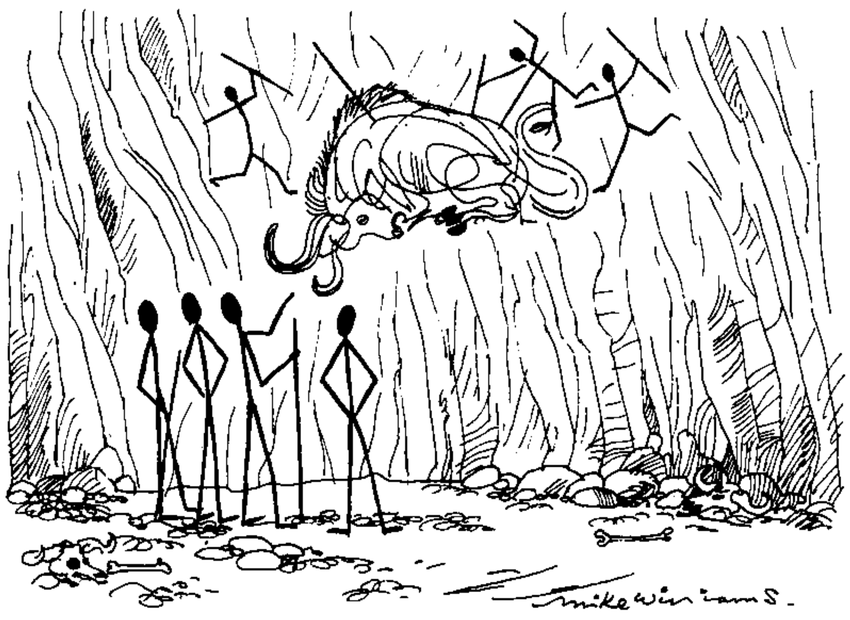
But none of these tragic victims have been so humiliatingly treated as Iain *(cont'd. p. 94)*

DEMPSTER GOES



"The novelty's worn off, I'm afraid. They should just cut him down now"

"Of course, it's far from conceptual, obviously mysterious, not mystic but without its organic substances changing personality..."



DIARY

Chuffed? Too right I bloody am. It's the absloo biggest. Chuffed right out my Y-fronts, fewnoder mean. I always said like I could abslooply kick arse and I mean really kick arse, kick anyone's arse you care to offer, ever, fewnoder mean, on the Ray Jo One breakfast show and now the gig's mine, too right it bloody is mate, and azased, I'm gonna totally kick arse on it, righ? We'll talk more bout that later, but firs azased, les hear this, from The Darkness –

Jeezus! Av I got one or two like things to talk about today. Too right I bloody av. Like, the first thing, or is it the second thing, anyway, it's either the first or the second thing, or, who knows, maybe the third, who's bloody countin', is this thing we were talkin about yesterday, or was it the day before? Anyway, who cares, not me, the thing is, this thing we were talking about whenever, it's one of those things that makes things like this seem like things that, like, are neither one thing or the other thing. But one thing's for certain, there's only one important thing in this whole broadcasting thing, and you know what it is, do you? I'll tell you for free: it's all about *communicay shun.*

Woddawegot now? Oh yeah, the new one from like Pink.

Okay, so where were we? I bin lookin through my Sun today, and, cor, didja see the tits on that one, didja? Wouldn't mind giving her a thingy up the wotsit, fewnoder mean. Whats er name then? Hazel from Westbury. Well, Hazel from Westbury, if you wanna text or e-mail me I'm not gonna stand in your way, love, 'cos les face it, soon I'm gonna be the biggest star on Ray Jo One with my brand new all-arse-kickin' breakfast show here on Ray Jo One that I'm gonna be the biggest star of, so, Hazel from Westbury, if you wanna text or e-mail me, you know what to do, righ?

So les broaden the discussion thing out a bit like they do on the posh stations, fewnoder mean. So, Dave, azased, we're talkin' tits. Who in your pinion's got the best tits on Hollyoaks?

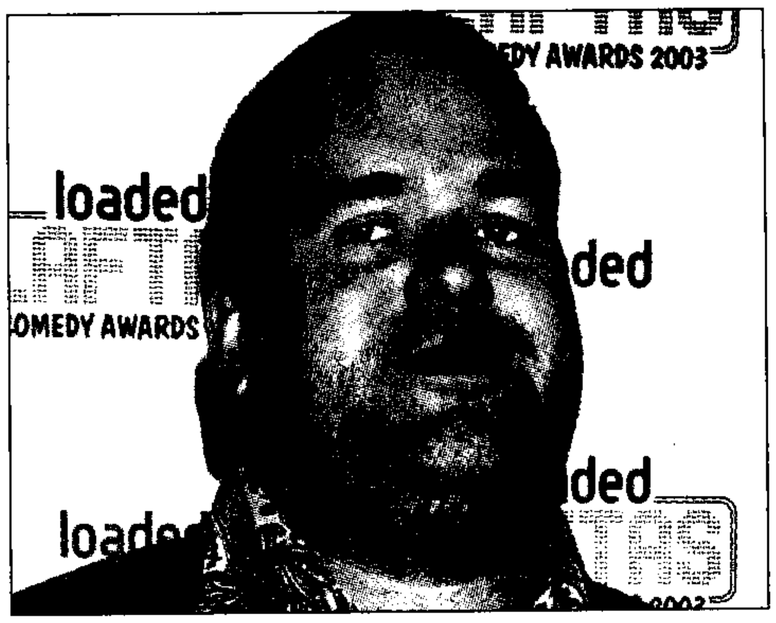
Little Man Helper: *The best tits on Hollyoaks?*

Thaswori sed. The best tits on Hollyoaks.

Little Man Helper: *Ummm. I don't reely um.*

Wozername? That girl who's just split up with that other bloke?

Little Man Helper: *Oh. Y'mean Ashley. Yeah,*



CHRIS MOYLES

you're righ, Chris, Ashley's got the best tits on Hollyoaks.

Nah. Not Ashley. She's a dog. What is she?

Little Man Helper: *Sorry, Chris, she's a dog, Chris.*

And don't you forget it. Not that I'd throw her out of my bed, mind, fewnoder mean. Now what we got now oh yeah we got this thing from Eminem.

Newscaster: *RAY JO ONE – NEWSBEA!!!!! A man in America has been accused of biting off his dog's head and swallowing it we'll be hearing in half an hour whether another footballer will be facing rape allegations the tortoise that turned into a psycho-killer why Kylie's getting her kit off for charity and what top celebs Beyonce and Robbie think of the news just in that America's declared war on North Korea. All this and more in NEWSBEA! Ray Jo One – One Music! One Life! One Station! Live It! Heary firs on Ray Jo One!*

Kylie gettin her kit off, eh? You might av heard us the other day, talking bout, Monday I think it was, we were talking about, yeah, it was Monday, or was it Tuesday, azased we were talking about Kylie's bum, see, and we said we wanna know what you think, is it, like, all it's cracked up to be, so we asked you to text us, text yes if you agree it's the greatest bum ever in the history of the whole like world ever and text no if you think it's like a todally crap bum, and anyway azased we got the results just in, so let's hear 'em, what are like the results, then, Rachel?

Little Lady Helper: *Well, Chris, 43% agree with the proposalosition that Kylie's bum is the greatest bum in the history of the world ever Chris.*

Forty-three per cent! Lemme see... So that's like a clear majority!

Little Lady Helper: *No, Chris, snot, 'cos 67% say it's the totally crappiest bum in the entire history of the world ever.*

Wodder they know? Lisnuz! Stupi farts. Next time, I won't like even bother to ask them. And – oi, oi – we got news just in that America's DROPPED A NUKE on North Korea – that's the big one, guys, and you heard it first on the CHRIS MOYLES SHOW here on RAY JO ONE – but not 'alf as big as this, the new one from Spat Out Phlegm....

Grey like track there from Spat Out Phlegm. So what were we talkin' abou? Oh yeah, I remember, the good ol' nuclear bomb what America's just dropped on Korea, was it North or South, can't remember, who gives an arse? Good thing or bad thing? And should Korea drop one back on America? It's up to you ve lisnuz. We wanna hear wha you have to say, text us on BOMBUSA if you think they should and CUTITOUTLADZ if you like think they shouldn't. Tell you who I'd like to nuke – that friggin crap merchan Doctor Fox, I'd like to tear his friggin 'ead off and poo down his neck, dew noder mean?

Okay, swat we talkin bout? Kids! You know what the avridge age of lisnuz to the Chris Moyles Breakfast Show is gonna be, do yer? Eh? Do yer?

Little Man Helper: Um… Um….

Wodjoo fink?

Little Man Helper: Um... 18, Chris?

Nah. Crap guess. Twelve 'n' a bit. So I'll be learnin' them a lot of new like words, righ? They only got pafetic new words like wee and poo from Sara Bloody Cox, whose arse I just well and truly kicked, not that I'm slaggin' her off, no way, she's a mate. But they'll be expandin' their vocablee wiv me, and thaz a promise. I'll be givin' them penis and wanker and shag and arsehole – 'cos les face it, we're on the BB-friggin'-C and the BB-friggin'-C has always bin bou' EDUCASHUN. Tell yer wha, I don't half fancy the new tart on Emmerdale, whassername? News just in, a nuclear bomb's just gone and bin dropped on Washington. Like, wow! Brillyern! You couldn't make it up! More of that on Newsbea, after this from Limp Bizkit.

As told to

CRAIG BROWN

I BLOODY HATE THE TABLOIDS! THEY HAVE NO IDEA OF THE HURT THEY CAUSE, PRINTING INACCURATE RUBBISH LIKE THIS.
BASTARDS!
THERE'S ONLY SO MANY TIMES YOU CAN SAY TO YOURSELF "IT'S ONLY THE PRESS... IGNORE THEM."
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'VE GOT MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY IN FLOODS OF TEARS BECAUSE OF WHAT'S BEEN WRITTEN...
SOB SOB
OH DADDY DADDY... THEY'VE SPELT MY NAME WRONG IN THE GOSSIP COLUMN AGAIN...
SOB SOB
PAT PAT
THERE, THERE, PIXIE FROU-FROU... JUST BE STRONG.

Literary Review

Rod for his own back

Too Beautiful For You
Rod Liddle
(Century, £12.99)

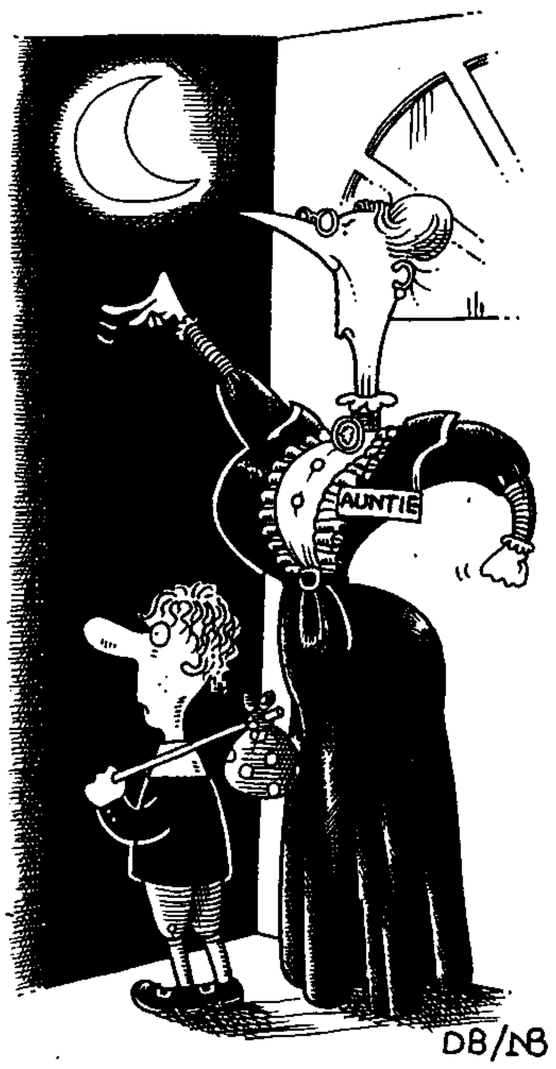
WHY Rod Liddle? Many people have asked themselves this question over the past 18 months. How has this shambolic Howard Marks lookalike with the dyed Paul McCartney hair become the most sought after columnist of the day?

Not only that, but someone actually sacked Sandi Toksvig from TV's *Call My Bluff* to make room for him. On radio and TV, in every newspaper and magazine, there's Rod proffering his latest bag of opinions, and being paid unimaginable amounts of money for his trouble.

To his jealous rivals, which is to say everyone still alive, the Cult of Rod is an unsolvable mystery, which may or may not deepen with the publication of this book. For somehow, in among all his other activities, Liddle has found time to produce his first work of fiction. Interviewed everywhere to promote it, he has revealed exclusively to all interviewers that he never actually wanted to be an overpaid hack who loiters smokily in the corner at parties. Instead he always harboured novelistic ambitions, which presumably could only be realised when he became an overpaid hack and star of daytime TV.

Publishers love a famous name, even when no one really knows why it's famous. *Too Beautiful For You* is a connected series of short stories set in a painfully up-to-date south London. Characters sit in bars, talk rubbish and then have sex with each other and everybody else they meet. They have names like Christian, Bechamel and Twix and are all dismally unhappy. South London itself is relentlessly bleak; people behave atrociously to each other; and behind it all there's a constant hubbub of news disasters – wars, plane crashes, train crashes – which are obviously supposed to inform the grim lives of the participants.

As with a lot of fiction written by journalists there's a third hand feel to much of this – Liddle seems



R. Liddle goes a long way

happier to base characters and events on his own prejudices and yesterday's news stories than on observation of real people – and the cynicism is straight from the newsroom. Humanity is for wimps, as any reporter will tell you. Nonetheless, this isn't anywhere near as bad a book as Media London will have expected (or hoped for). If you can peel away the cynicism you'll find passages of proper writing, as well as some good jokes. (Although not as many as Liddle or his publishers seem to think there are. The blurb says the book is "very, very funny", which is at least two verys too many.)

Liddle is keen on narrative twists and uses them so often you start to look out for them. A little more worryingly, there are several surges into surrealism, which rarely make sense and tend to overbalance the narrative horribly. Soon everyone is hallucinating or having weird dreams or thinking the devil lives in the coffee machine, and the impact is lost. Liddle has lots of ideas – which may come as a shock to long-suffering readers of his *Guardian* column – but there rarely seems to be any substance behind them. The overall impression is of a big, clever, rather badly-behaved boy frantically showing off. Long-suffering readers of his *Guardian* column will certainly recognise that.

In the end this is a frustrating and annoying book. If Liddle were just another dim-witted celebrity fictioneer, we could just chuck it to one side and forget about it. But he clearly has talent. We can probably assume that he writes quickly and easily – he would have to, given the vast amount he churns out. But fiction demands more than a facile prose style, it needs time and hard work. The stories here betray the pressures of the Liddle workload, and the journalist's gadfly attention span. And really, it's just not good enough to set one story from the point of view of a housefly. Maybe that's the real problem: that Liddle has talent but not a lot of judgement. It would explain an awful lot else...

John Milton

BOOKS & BOOKMEN

■ ONE of the first big deals to emerge from this year's Frankfurt Book Fair has been Alex Garland's six-figure move from Penguin to Faber.

It would appear, however, that Garland is not quite over the well-publicised case of writer's block that Penguin have nursed him through patiently ("Generally I do not have any plans to do any writing at all. At the moment I am playing on my X-box an awful lot," he told the *Evening Standard* in February).

The first outing for Faber will be *The Coma*, a novella rather than a full-length novel. What's more, this apparently slight piece of work is bulked out further with 40 woodcut illustrations by his father, cartoonist Nicholas Garland. Will Faber be able to get value for their money out of the Garland family before Alex returns to his X-box and his agent Andrew Nurnberg hawks him somewhere else? His carers at Penguin are understood to be spitting feathers.

■ THE Pythons Autobiography by the Pythons – *in which John Cleese, Michael Palin et al tell the inside story of the cult 1970s comedy series – is likely to be one of Orion's big Christmas hits.*

But Orion's billing isn't as honest as it could be, claiming the hefty and expensive volume (modelled on the same publisher's Beatles Anthology, *which was a coffee table book in the truest sense: fix a leg to each corner and it could be used as a coffee table) to be "the definitive... completely-different-to-anything-done-before-book" on the subject.*

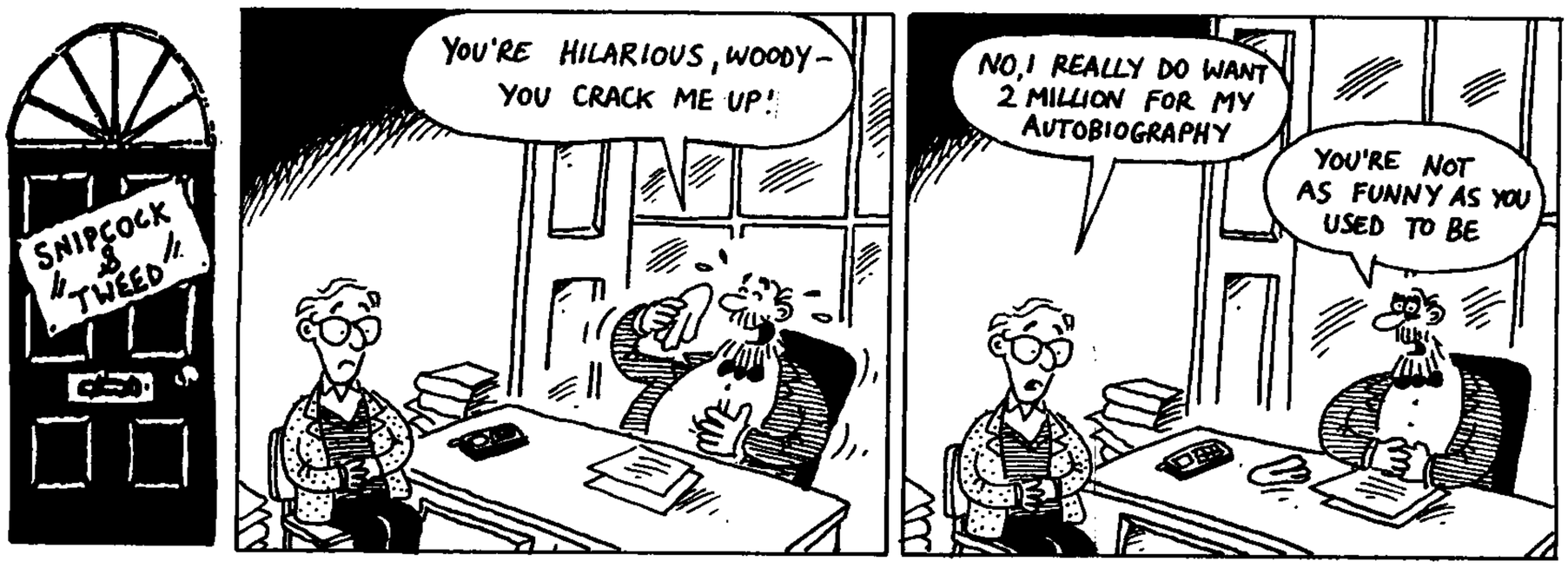
Er, what about David Morgan's Monty Python Speaks, *published four years ago by Fourth Estate? The* Autobiography *consists of all-new and original interviews (by Bob McCabe) with the principals, but then so did* Speaks, *which covers much the same material in much the same level of detail. So not so completely different after all. What's more, the earlier book was half the size and one-third the price.*

■ WHEN the British Book Awards (aka the Nibbies) was set up by trade newspaper *Publishing News* in 1989, it was a deliberate reaction to author-led ceremonies like the Booker: at last here was a lavish tribute to the backroom boys and girls, with a champagne-fuelled dinner to go along with the awards.

It has now been announced that the ceremony is to be split in two. The Book of the Year and the Author of the Year ceremony will take place at the Grosvenor House as usual, while all of the other gongs will be dished out at a rather more subdued lunchtime function. Attendees who can't get tickets for the main gig are invited to sit in the Ballroom at the Grosvenor, watching the ceremony on closed circuit TV, with a finger buffet in lieu of the groaning board enjoyed by everyone in the main room.

Why the *volte face*? For years, with each award attracting heavy sponsorship, the Nibbies have been a goldmine for *PN* chairman Fred Newman (it has long been suggested by the uncharitable that a publisher's chances of winning were index-linked to their advertising expenditure in Newman's journal). Recently he has been hankering after getting his annual beanfeast on telly, boosting his coffers yet further. However, networks and production companies have rebuffed the idea, suggesting that no one wants to watch three hours of unknowns collecting the award for best dumpbin of the year, while the losers throw bread rolls at each other.

Now, though, there is a faint prospect that Channel 5 is up for televising the whole shebang, and


SNIPCOCK & TWEED
YOU'RE HILARIOUS, WOODY – YOU CRACK ME UP!
NO, I REALLY DO WANT 2 MILLION FOR MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY
YOU'RE NOT AS FUNNY AS YOU USED TO BE

so the backroom boys have again been relegated to the backroom, with only a finger buffet to console them.

■ THE theft of valuable antiquarian books from libraries and their subsequent sale is a serious business, but do police take it seriously enough?

When, in 2001, the Birmingham and Midland Institute caught book dealer Bob Coen on a CCTV camera secreting three sizeable 18th century volumes of Dr Robert Thoroton's *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* about his person (two up his shirt, one in a ring binder), he was let off with a caution, despite having admitted to stealing many more books between 1993 and his arrest. It was only the library's own investigations that retrieved another 40-odd books stolen and sold by Coen, and led to his conviction and 240 hours of community service.

Many more of his "acquisitions" are now thought to be irretrievable, having found their way into the private collectors' market. Coen had bleached out the library marks, cut out any incriminating flyleaves and, in some cases, replaced the spines of the books to remove library identification. However, given that most antiquarian booksellers are meticulous in their catalogue descriptions, can they and auctioneers really be unaware of such blindingly obvious tamperings? Or are pound signs preventing them from asking tricky questions of provenance?

A nationwide librarians' conference on the matter seems likely, and in the meantime libraries will be viewing members who happen to be book dealers with a great deal of suspicion, unfairly on the vast majority of honest brokers.

Meanwhile, when William Jacques was caught after stealing more than 500 books from the British Library, the London Library and Cambridge University, he was jailed for four years. A long sentence for stealing a few library books, some might think, but when one of them was a first edition of Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius* worth £180,000, one begins to wonder why these crimes aren't treated with the same gravity and severity as a jewel heist.

'Bookworm'

Daisy chain

Essential Poems for Britain (and the way we live now)
Daisy Goodwin
(HarperCollins, £10.99)

CONTRARY to popular belief you can almost always judge a book by its cover. Especially when it features someone gorgeous and pouting perched in a rock cluster by a squally seascape, showing a bit of leg and wearing green wellies.

That's how we find Daisy Goodwin on the dust jacket of her latest anthology. She is pictured enrapt in a book of poesy, her soul aloft, her spirit soaring. On the back cover she repeats the pose but in close-up. The book is set down and Daisy glances coquettishly to camera. With her fulsome lips and raven hair, here is the literary spawn of Nigella, sent to seduce us not with a chocolate tort but the charms of very occasional verse.

There are few other anthologists who would get on the cover of their collections – imagine Seamus and Ted on *The Rattle Bag*, enticing us with their varicose veins. But latterly Daisy has been on TV, presenting the shows that go with the books, and fronting last week's National Poetry Day. She is just the latest example of how publishing is set on becoming wholly reliant on television. Regrettably, it works – right now, like a lyrical Oprah, the only poetry that sells is that with Daisy's imprimatur.

This latest anthology claims to be a reflection on "what it means to be British today", seen through the medium of poetry. It stumbles from the outset because Marvell and Milton's thoughts on what it meant to be British were self-evidently products of their times – and Daisy doesn't do context. Still, this is not allowed to stand in the way of a best-selling wheeze, and instead our hostess uses the poems like crazy paving, random tiles slung together to beat a path towards a hackneyed notion of Britishness (queuing, dogs, bad teeth).

To merit her picture on the cover she flanks each chapter with 100 words or so of milky platitudes ("The sea is a rich source of metaphor for British poets"). But her choices, if indeed they are hers and not the three helpers she thanks in the acknowledgements, stick resolutely to a familiar canon. The public gets what the public wants: Tennyson, Betjeman, Belloc, dollops of Wendy Cope, with a trendy smattering of Glyn Maxwell, Hugo Williams and Sophie Hannah for some zeitgeist icing.

We can nitpick when it comes to choices, but what undermines the whole exercise is its maudlin premise that whatever your emotional ailment, there is an antidote in verse. Simply spend £10.99 on one of Daisy's pocketbooks, watch the accompanying TV series, read her Poetry Doctor column in *Radio Times* and you'll soon perk up.

Tellingly, the titles of her various anthologies have changed from *101 Poems*, to *Essential Poems*, implying that the ante has been upped – not only are certain poems recommended, but, frankly, you would be unwise to contemplate prolonged existence without them.

Goodwin's collections are pretty much all that is left of popular poetry these days, so as a reflection on "the way we live now" they are ironically apt. The way we live now is that people will only read a poem if it's got a looker on the front, and, pointedly, if they think a couple of tetrameters can work faster than a Panadol.

One need be no Empson to know that good poetry should ask questions at least as much as it proposes answers. By prescribing poetry as self-help, Goodwin inevitably manhandles some brilliant, startling verse in to the trammels of her chapter headings – thus Edward Thomas's lugubrious "Rain" is jimmied in to a chapter entitled "Showers Forecast", which is supposed to illustrate the English obsession with the weather. Thomas's meditation on death is unlikely to have you chortling at the jolly Britishness of it all, however.

Before she was the acceptable face of verse, Daisy Goodwin was – indeed, still is – a successful TV producer. It is she we have to thank for the slew of middle-class aspirational programming like *House Doctor, Your Money or Your Life, Would Like to Meet, Property Ladder* and *She's Gotta Have It*, meaning that she is a proven expert at tapping in to middle-class hopes and fears and proposing expedient cure-alls. Sound familiar?

Pseuds Corner

...the truth is that [David] Blaine, as Churchill once said of Russia, is "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma". But, precisely because we can all attach our private meaning to Blaine's action, this strange public confinement in the end acquires something of the unresolvable ambiguity of art.
MICHAEL BILLINGTON
Guardian

I love the colour of Oscar de la Renta's pants. The bright turquoise perfectly matches the Ming dynasty china in my drawing room.

'Manhattan socialite'
NAN KEMPNER
Sunday Times
Style Section

Of course – if there is anything at all that embodies every aspect of the artist that has ever come under discussion – love of innovation, creativity, spontaneity, creation completely from within oneself etc – it is the potato. One need only watch as it lies in a dark cellar, and begins to sprout spontaneously, innovating sprout by sprout in a virtual torrent of creativity; and then as it disappears beneath its teeming sprouts – retreating totally behind its work – and brings forth the most amazing forms. And what colours! The practically shivering frozen lilac in the tips of its sprouts, the spaceless pale white of the sprouts themselves, with an occasional hint of morose, earthless green – and finally the timeless, maternal wrinkled brown of the self-consuming fruit that sacrifices itself entirely in the perfection of its work...

SIGMAR POLKE
quoted by A.S. Byatt in *Tate Arts* and *Culture* magazine

In one small painting, a white spilled stain unfurls across what I take to be a patterned, pinkish tablecloth. It is impossible not to think of a sperm stain on a coloured handkerchief; impossible, too, not to be reminded of all those religious paintings of Veronica's veil. This is more than ambiguity – more a blasphemous duality, and the kind of thinking that permeates Polke's art.

ADRIAN SEARLE appraises Polke,
Guardian

It isn't that tribes don't still exist or that new categories haven't evolved, from the Joseph-wearing Yummy Mummy and Dolce & Gabbana-clad Chessex girls to subteen Sk8er girls and the Micro Celebrity. The difference now is the degree of cross-pollination. Royals dress like East End Secretaries on the razz; East End secretaries wear tiaras and trains when they get married. Posh is a Chessex Girl, a Yummy Mummy and a summa cum laude graduate from the Ministry of Cookie Cutter high-street pop culture.

***The Times* fashion supplement**

The current generation of stylists and photographers has sparked a revolution in menswear and its presentation. Jo Ann Furniss goes behind their images to uncover the ideas, creative relationships and cultural relationships that make up this magic mix...
It's a search for a certain kind of purity.
Willy Vanderperre

It had a sickness and beauty; a Rudolf Nureyev-like feeling.
Inez van Lamsweerde
***Independent* fashion magazine**

Pseuds Corporate

For [Mike] Hayes, spatial planning is sustainable, integrative and inclusive. It is value-driven and involves mediating between conflicting sets of values.
Planning

CONTRIBUTORS: Lindsay Elburn, Eamonn O'Neill, Fran Flood, Brian Passingham, Dr J. Webster, Mike Oliver, Peter Fry.

£10 paid for all entries

IN THE BACK

WOMAN IN THE EYE:
SHIRLEY PORTER

A DAME EXCUSE

DAME Shirley Porter, a millionaire, lives in luxury in Israel while still owing Westminster city council some £40m surcharge – ratepayers' money she illegally and recklessly spent on fixing the distribution of the electorate to ensure that the Tory council stayed in office. The money is equivalent to the revenue from council tax from every ratepayer in Westminster for a whole year.

When Dame Shirley lost her last appeal in December 2001, the council instructed the well-known firm of solicitors, Stephenson Harwood, to root out the DSP fortune and recover £40m of it for Westminster ratepayers. The solicitor in charge of this enterprise is John Fordham. He told the *Eye* that it is "a touch tricky" for him to disclose anything about his firm's progress in pursuing the Porter money because of disclosure orders his firm had sought to prevent Shirley Porter finding out what the lawyers were doing.

The *Eye* understands that Westminster council and its ratepayers have already forked out £750,000 in fees to Stephenson Harwood. We asked Mr Fordham whether his firm had recovered for the council as much as it had been paid. He replied: "We have to do this in two stages. We have to track the money down and then we have to satisfy a court that it is Shirley Porter's money and to order its payment. If your question is 'have we tracked down more than we have been paid?' the answer is yes, by a long way. If your question is 'have we been able to hand over to the council as much as we have been paid by them?' then the answer is no". The *Eye* understands from other sources that the actual money paid over to the council is, by comparison with the amount owed by Dame Shirley, negligible.

Always anxious to help, the *Eye* is happy to identify certain companies that may have attracted the Porter millions in recent times.

Lampol, a property development company set up by the Porter family in the late 1980s. DSP was company secretary and resigned soon after the district auditor's damning account of her behaviour in 1994.

The Classical Alliance, an internet music company in which DSP, through her company Whitecoast, invested $225,000 in 2001.

Redbus, another internet company, boosted at a critical period by a half a million quid loan from John Porter, son of Shirley.

Individuals who might be able to help identify more of the Porter fortune include:

Tony Kerpel, a former adviser to former Tory home secretary Kenneth Clarke, and former Tory leader on Camden council, who did a lot of "public relations" for the dame in her hour of crisis. Kerpel got £12,500 from Porter in October 2002, soon after court orders were issued to her to disclose her assets.

Oliver Grace, the colourful entrepreneur and director of Redbus, who hit the headlines over his purchase of the Empire State Building on behalf of a convicted criminal. Grace has always worked closely with the Porter family especially with…

John Porter, Shirley's son, whose not altogether successful business enterprises (notably his disastrous purchase of US optics company Lasik Vision) suggest that at least some of his cash may have come from mumsy.

Peter Green, DSP's former financial adviser. Green's company, Personal Financial Management, is based in luxurious offices in Mayfair's Mount Street, and is owned by himself, the Sunset Corporation (Shirley's husband Leslie) and Toxford (John Porter).

Roger Rosewell, former *Daily Mail* leader writer and Dame Shirley's assiduous bagman.

The solicitors' inquiries are being followed with passionate concern by the people now responsible for Westminster council, the leader Simon Milton, his friend the chief whip Robert Davis, Judith Warner and Alan Bradley. All four were on the council while Dame Shirley was leader. None of them did anything to stop their leader's serial gerrymandering. If you want to find out more about Westminster council you can get a wholly objective account from its chief press officer, Alex Aiken, who was one of the "young Turks" in Dame Shirley's specially-recruited Marketforce brigade at the height of her powers from 1988 to 1990.

MAKING A MINTER?

IAIN Duncan Smith likes to spend his holidays with his friend and loyal supporter, Highland laird and property developer Geoffrey Minter. Apparently Cough enjoys shooting grouse, and this summer was special fun since it included a magnificent reception at the Queen Mum's former pile at the Castle of Mey.

Mr Minter could do with some of Cough's wise business advice right now. He wants to take over the large woollen mill at Brora, Sutherland, that was built at public expense by the Highlands and Islands Initiative, a quango well known to *Eye* readers. To Minter's intense irritation, the quango won't let him buy the mill immediately. It feels it has some responsibility to the public in the Highlands, and it can't help remembering that a former chairman of a company that took over the mill recently before the firm went into receivership was, er, Geoffrey Minter.

Nor have quango members been over-impressed with the recently-filed accounts for Mr Minter's two main companies. In the year to April 2002, Minter's holding company, Magnohard Ltd, "incurred a loss of £908,505 and at the balance sheet date its liabilities exceeded its assets by £464,888. The company's subsidiaries have also incurred losses although they have a surplus of assets over liabilities." The report discloses that to continue as a going concern the company must "go on getting the support of its bankers".

And what about Adam House Ltd, another Minter company? The report shows a loss for the same year of £1,229,124, and includes the news that "the directors are currently in the process of negotiating new facilities with its bankers… They expect these negotiations to be concluded successfully, although this cannot be guaranteed".

BARCLAY TWINS

Brothers grim

THE Barclay brothers have done much in a short time to destroy the goodwill built up over years by the Liverpool-based Littlewoods high street and mail order firm.

Since taking over from John Moores at the end of last year, the brothers have axed Littlewoods charitable donations and community ties (it used to give away 1 percent of profits). Then the company withdrew from the Ethical Trading Initiative, the body that monitors the sourcing of goods and ensures workers' safety and guards against child and slave labour and poor working conditions.

It then rejected an offer from Christian Aid of the free services of ethical trade experts to help monitor suppliers. And now, fearing that the charity or others will go in and inspect alone, Littlewoods has written to all those suppliers urging them not to allow any inspectors in. A letter from Colin McLean and Jon Wragg, trading directors, to suppliers says: "Littlewoods has never had a policy of unannounced factory visits, assessments or auditors and we would like to request that any approach by a third party for access to factories supplying our merchandise be declined.'

So what does Littlewoods have to hide? "Nothing," replied a spokeswoman. "We just want to monitor who is seeking access and check out their credentials. We have a strict and accountable ethical policy." So that's all right, then.

RICH PICKINGS AT PICKFORDS

PICKFORDS, the well-known removal firm, has an exciting history. Once upon a time it was a boring, publicly-owned company with a reliable pension scheme. But in 1989 it was privatised as part of the National Freight Consortium (NFC) in a glamorous development described by its mastermind, Peter Thompson, as "workers' share ownership". *Sharing The Success, the Story of NFC*, was the title of Thompson's book on the take-over.

A democratic structure was set up to ensure that the worker-shareholders controlled the company, and Thompson was knighted. The last three words of his book were "it will survive". But it didn't.

By the mid-1990s the new NFC chairman was Christopher Bland, former chairman of the BBC board of governors. The democratic structure was dismantled. The percentage of shares owned by the workers slumped from 83 percent to 23 percent (see *Eye* 891). A thousand jobs were axed at once, with promises, all kept, of more sackings in the future. Pickfords was bought by Exel, and then by Serva UK. A condition of the latest sale, apparently insisted on by Exel in 1999, was that the firm's pension scheme should be maintained for at least five years.

Now, less than five years later, the workers have been told the final salary pension scheme is to be junked next April and replaced with a much less handsome "money purchase scheme". The letter to the workers from Serva's "human relations director", Steve Fellows, on 19 September stresses the firm's commitment to "meaningful discussion" on these proposals. But it goes on: "Ultimately however if agreement cannot be reached it may be necessary to terminate existing contractual arrangements and re-issue contracts of employment to include the new pension provisions."

Mr Fellows wouldn't take the *Eye*'s calls, but we were rung the next day by Pickfords' communications director. Asked whether a condition of the 1999 sale of Exel to Serva was that the Pickfrods pension scheme should not be touched for five years, she replied: "I'm afraid we can't comment on that at all." Nor could she comment on whether the new arrangements are part of a scheme to "fatten up" Pickfords before the firm is taken over yet again, this time by the big New York venture capitalists Clayton, Dubilier and Rice, which is taking Pickfords to market early next year. This move will ensure huge bonuses for directors who, as a result, won't be too worried about their pensions.

MMR

MEAN TESTING

THE decision to withdraw legal aid for the 1,000-plus families who believe their children were damaged by MMR came just as the lawyers for the families obtained what they believe is their most striking evidence of a link between the triple jab and the autism and brain damage suffered by the children.

Measles virus has been found in the spinal fluid – and therefore the brain – in three of the six children at the centre of the huge high court battle over the safety of the vaccine. It has also been found in 18 children in the United States who developed autism after receiving MMR.

By contrast the virus was found in only one of more than 20 control samples – taken mainly from spinal taps on children with leukaemia.

Just as the results came in, however, the legal services commission announced its decision – after four and a half years and only six months before trial – to withdraw funding "because medical research has yet to prove a conclusive link".

Jeremy Stuart-Smith, QC for the families, told the high court last week that the legal aid decision was "flawed" and likely to be judicially reviewed. Clearly frustrated by this setback, he described to Mr Justice Keith, who was due to hear the case next April, how the families had got this far "against all odds". He accused the defendant drug companies, with their "huge" resources, of laying down obstacles and "a trail of litigation treacle" through which the families were forced to wade.

Not least, the drug companies' lawyers had even tried to stop the spinal tests by seeking an injunction banning them as "invasive and unethical". As it was, the families were forced to go to the US for the spinal taps because every hospital they approached in Britain, whether private or NHS, refused. The reasons for rejection were, said Mr Stuart-Smith, "from the perfectly reasonable to the near incredible". One hospital which had provisionally agreed to do the work suddenly withdrew at the 11th hour.

The QC described how "with a determination that could only be admired" Alexander Harris, the firm of solicitors acting for the families, had found a hospital in the US that was prepared to help. At very short notice – and with extreme difficulty – the severely disabled children and their parents and carers flew to the US where "every conceivable obstacle" was put in their way.

Number crunching

MMR

£10m
Extra needed to see the parents' legal case through to conclusion

£10m
Cost of lifetime care for three or four severely autistic or brain-damaged children

£20m
Public cost of maintaining the empty Greenwich dome

£137m
Cost so far of the Bloody Sunday inquiry

As the parents have since revealed, within hours of landing in Michigan the hospital which had agreed to test the children suddenly announced it was no longer prepared to. Using contacts involved in US drug litigation, the families found a private clinic and sympathetic anaesthetist willing to carrying out the tests, just two hours away. But they were nearly thwarted again when the defendant drug companies made an emergency application to the high court in London for an injunction.

The high court judge declined to grant an injunction; but the tests were delayed a couple of hours so the pharmaceutical companies could send a doctor. In the event they sent a lawyer instead.

Relieved but exhausted, the parents and children then went to the airport to catch their flight back to the UK armed with their precious samples, carefully stored in a special container. It was then that US customs stepped in and quizzed the party about their cargo. One parent told the *Eye* they were even asked about the ethics of invasive tests on their children, suggesting the officials were well briefed. On their stopover in Amsterdam they were questioned again by Dutch officials. Coincidence? The parents don't think so.

The families believe their efforts have been vital. As Mr Stuart-Smith said last week: "The contrast between three positive results for measles from the six lead cases, the real candidates for proving that MMR causation exists, and one positive of the leukemic patients, is striking."

The results of course need more investigation. For a start, the drug companies contest the "positive" findings (although they are using different testing techniques and sensitivity to measles virus is very variable). But neither that crucial investigation – nor any other work to settle the case one way or another – is going to go ahead without legal aid. The drug companies and government are clearly not going to do it. The case has cost £15m so far and could be concluded for another £10m (see panel).

Mr Justice Keith, who was due to hear the case in April, has said on several occasions that the case is important not only for the children involved but the wider public. For it to continue, the families are now in the ludicrous position of having to go cap in hand to the legal services commission to get funding for more lawyers to fight a costly judicial review of the commission's decision to withdraw legal aid in the first place.

SLICK AS A PARRETT

William G. Parrett

AFTER the Enron scandal there was a terrific hullabaloo about accountants who audit company accounts and at the same time make much more money from the same companies for "consulting" and other services.

The conflict of interest was so blatant that even the docile regulators that supervise accounting threatened to act to separate auditing from other services. Some of the big firms even started to break themselves up and sell off their consulting arms. For example, for a suitable price KPMG and Ernst & Young flogged off their consulting services subsidiaries to competitors round the world (though the grand old names can still be detected in many of the new companies). In February last year another proud member of the "Big Four" accountancy giants, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, fell into line and announced that it would separate from Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Consulting.

Reassured by the separations, the regulators backed off. The Higgs and Smith reviews of British accountancy firms concluded that there was no reason to insist on separation, since most of the companies had separated on their own initiative – another glittering example of the responsibility and public spiritedness of the accountancy profession.

Then, suddenly and very quietly, in April this year Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu abandoned its plans to hive off its consulting business. The problem, the firm revealed, was "uncertain economic conditions". James Copeland, chief executive at the time, explained: "We began this process at a time of more robust consulting, capital and credit markets, all of which have deteriorated in the past 14 months, due to economic uncertainty exacerbated by the war in Iraq."

And how have Deloitte partners suffered in the last six months of war in Iraq? In a proud press release on 1 October, they announced that their income leapt in the last year by an astonishing 21 percent – to $15.1bn. The new chief executive, William G. Parrett, also announced that the firm's rather cumbersome name is being shortened to Deloitte. "The new brand name," he drooled, "is a reflection of the greater capability and array of services that we can offer to clients as a multi-disciplinary firm. The breadth of our vision and our ability to respond globally is more comprehensive than any other professional services firm."

One aspect of the firm's multi-disciplinary breadth of vision Mr Parrett forgot to mention was its ability to provide auditing and consulting services to the same companies and its failure to separate these activities as some of its competitors had done.

PS: In the same announcement, Deloitte boasted of its most recent "award" from *Euromoney* magazine as the world's leading tax adviser. Among its qualifications for that post, obviously, was its advice to Britain's Inland Revenue that selling a few hundred government tax offices to a company in a tax haven was "entirely normal". (And don't forget the tax avoidance advice it gave to Enron.)

FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS...

■ **BLANTYRE HOUSE:** An interesting footnote to the Blantyre House prison fiasco (*Eyes passim ad nauseam*) emerges in former prisons inspector Sir David "Rambo" Ramsbotham's new book *Prisongate*. Tom Murtagh, the area manager who orchestrated the bungled raid and drove out the highly acclaimed governor Eoin Maclennen Murray, apparently had a history of bullying and clamping down on "soft" resettlement prisons.

According to Rambo, Murtagh had also gone into Ford prison, near Shoreham in Sussex, demanding cuts in community ties and introducing rules and regulations "more suitable to a high security prison". Says Rambo: "He was feared by staff in the prisons for which he was responsible, where he was known to be at variance with the 'diktat' of the Prison Service Staff Care and Welfare Service, which stated unambiguously: 'Victimisation of colleagues is strictly against Prison Service values'." Witness his later treatment of poor Maclennen Murray.

■ **SHERMAN THOMAS:** Three years after black teenager Sherman Thomas was crushed against a wall by a police car and suffered horrific leg injuries, the police complaints authority (PCA) has finally decided to discipline the driver.

However, it's a hollow victory for Thomas, whom officers were chasing because they thought he had stolen a moped. The PC responsible is to be charged under police regulations that usually govern absenteeism and general conduct and not, as Thomas's lawyers had argued, more serious rules governing abuse of authority and using more force than necessary.

The officer is to be charged with "being neglectful in the performance of your duties in that you used a police vehicle as a moving barrier in a way that caused severe injury to Sherman Thomas when neither police officers nor any member of the public were confronted by a life threatening risk justifying such action." Which sounds remarkably like using unreasonable force, doesn't it?

■ **ROGER SYLVESTER:** More than four years after his death, an inquest jury has finally returned a verdict of "unlawful killing" in the case of Roger Sylvester, who died after being restrained by several Metropolitan police officers, first outside his home and again in hospital.

The officers involved have been suspended while the crown prosecution service (CPS) reconsiders its decision not to bring criminal charges. Sylvester's family are not holding their breath. Of the eight cases of "unlawful killing" returned by inquest juries in the last 10 years, only one has gone before a jury. No one was convicted.

You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

BRITISH investigators have frozen more than £50m of suspected Colombian drugs money at the London branch of an international bank as part of a US-led money-laundering investigation.

This is understood to be the largest amount of drugs money ever frozen in Britain. It confirms once again just how big a role the City plays in laundering the proceeds of global crime – despite ever increasing regulations and claims by government and regulators that London is clean of "dirty money".

Details of the discovery of such a large amount of drug money in London have not yet been made public because of the continuing US investigation. The money was frozen following inquiries by detectives from the National Crime Squad's money-laundering unit who are cooperating with the US investigation. The American end of the case is shortly expected to result in indictments followed by legal proceedings here to confiscate the money and possibly prosecute those involved in laundering.

"Customer service... transferring you to a colleague. Customer service... transferring..."

A total of £55m has been frozen in the London accounts. The drug traffickers had so corrupted staff at the UK branch of the bank that they had apparently enjoyed Caribbean holidays together.

The senior London staff have since been sacked; but the bank could still face a prosecution in Britain for money-laundering because there is evidence that warnings about the nature of the business were deliberately ignored by managers who suspected, if not knew, that they were handling drug money.

The £55m dwarfs previous amounts frozen in the UK. These have usually been below £10m in the case of amounts frozen in accounts at the Bank of Cocaine and Crooks International belonging to Colombian kingpins such as Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez-Gacha and Panama's deposed dictator General Manuel Noriega. Far bigger sums – in excess of $100m – have been frozen in Switzerland belonging to leaders of the Colombian cocaine cartels.

Until now most of the evidence of laundering in London for the controllers of Colombia's greatest export have been through money transfer operations and bureaux de change. Heroin traffickers from Afghanistan – doing boffo business despite what the Dear Leader assured would be Britain's reward for toppling the Taliban (because the booming heroin crop is now controlled by our warlord allies) – and Pakistan tend to prefer the traditional "hawala" underground banking system, although they're also no strangers to bureaux de change.

A recent Customs investigation took down a family-run business in Bradford handling £100,000 a time, delivered in cardboard boxes used for packing crisps and collected in Dubai – still one of the great "black holes" in world banking.

Large sums – around £20m – have been frozen in London belonging to the plundering family of Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha. And bigger total sums have been frozen under sanctions legislation belonging to Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Interestingly, little more than £500,000 of the £30m of supposed Taliban funds remains frozen. The rest has been handed back to the new government in Kabul, having previously belonged to its non-Taliban predecessors rather than terrorists.

Two years ago a French parliamentary report was highly critical of London for providing a haven for "dirty money". The City, along with the British flagged havens such as Jersey and Gibraltar, were condemned as "feeble" in their fight against money-laundering by terrorists and other criminals. These criticisms were dismissed by the Financial Services Authority and the treasury as out of date and off the mark. But the disclosure that such a huge amount of Colombian drug money could be deposited in London raises big questions about the effectiveness of all that regulation.

As the Americans have discovered since the 1980s, and BCCI proved here, no amount of regulation will work if the bad guys are inside the bank. More recently, Russian organised crime has proved very effective at infiltrating the London and continental branches of eastern European banks, not to mention the Bank of New York.

The hardest trick for drug traffickers and other criminals whose business is in cash is to get the money into the bank. Once it is in the system it can be moved anywhere in the world, usually with few questions asked if the originating bank is in on the laundering. That is clearly what happened in the latest case.

The basic "Know Your Customer" test, the supposed front line in the fight against money-laundering, is of no use if the bankers know and launder the money anyway. Yet there have been few if any successful British prosecutions of bankers for laundering drug money, despite some 175 cases of money-laundering, mostly drug related, in 2002 alone. The first banker to be prosecuted overturned his conviction on appeal.

Despite the new treasury directive which will from next year bring in a whole raft of further businesses required to file suspicious transaction reports – joining lawyers, accountants, financial advisers and casinos – there is little confidence in law enforcement that this will change anything. There has yet to be a successful prosecution for breaching the "KYC" rules, even though Northern Bank (£1.25m) and Royal Bank of Scotland (£750,000) have been fined heavily since December for verification failures, none of which resulted in any crime.

The worrying question for the treasury and the FSA is: would either have known that £55m belonging to South American drug cartels was sitting in London but for the US investigation?

THE Labour party under the Dear Leader is nothing if not a broad church. Everybody's money is welcome. The bigger the cheque, the greater the welcome from former record company boss Lord Levy and his band, the collectors. As a result, all kinds of unexpected names crop up in the list of Labour donors, if not at the annual conference.

Among the surprises is the name "Capital & Provident". It featured in last year's annual report list of donors, most of which gave ahead of the 2001 election when Tony Blair was much more popular than he is today.

Capital & Provident is best known as part of the private property empire put together by one-time tax exile Cyril Dennis. In recent years he has built a second fortune from developments in London's docklands and other inner city regeneration projects close to at least some Labour hearts. Capital & Provident is now run from Docklands by Dennis's son Jonathan and daughter Andrea. Cyril Dennis himself has homes in Israel as well as London.

Since last year Jonathan Dennis is the owner of all the shares in the key Capital & Provident Management company. He acquired these shares from a trustee company in Jersey which was previously interested in a long list of related property companies, no doubt representing an offshore family trust. But there is no record of this company or Capital & Provident Plc making any donation to Labour.

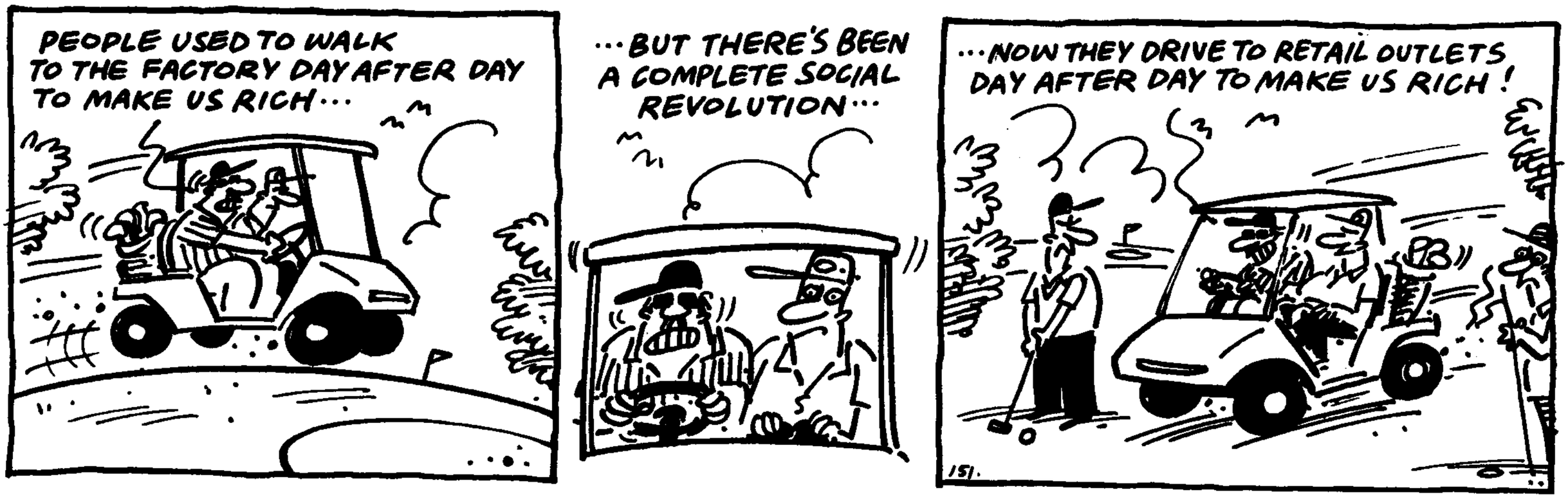
Cyril Dennis – described by one who knows him as an unlikely Labour supporter, but then aren't they all – made £50m by selling his first property group to Legal & General in 1994. He quickly took advantage of the opportunities in Docklands offered by the recession of the early 90s, snapping up Harbour Exchange and South Quay from distressed sellers. Capital & Provident now has projects in several other parts of London and elsewhere.

Dennis received an MBE in the 2002 new year's honours – after the Capital & Provident donation – at a time when he was offering to donate £2m to a new city academy school in the Anfield area of Liverpool. He pulled out later in the year after threats to his family from ungrateful local inhabitants.

Less well known is that Cyril Dennis was also inadvertently embroiled in the United Mizrahi Bank scandal which saw corrupt London manager John Doherty jailed in 2001 for taking bribes from Stephen Hinchliffe of stores group Facia. UMB

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE & RIGG

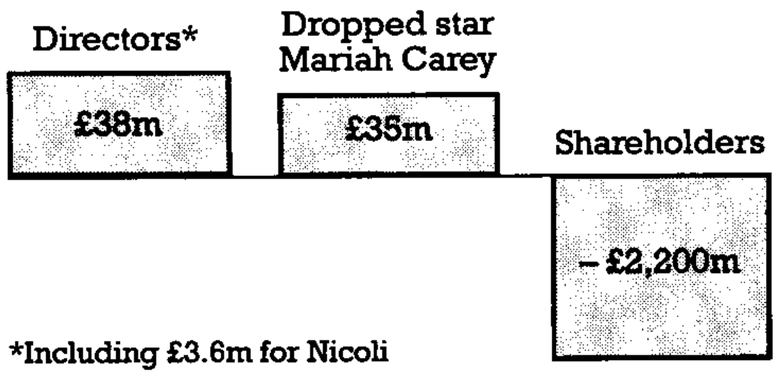

PEOPLE USED TO WALK TO THE FACTORY DAY AFTER DAY TO MAKE US RICH···
···BUT THERE'S BEEN A COMPLETE SOCIAL REVOLUTION···
···NOW THEY DRIVE TO RETAIL OUTLETS DAY AFTER DAY TO MAKE US RICH!
151.

Stock Horror

by 'Bruin'

EMI: top of the flops

Winners and losers in four years under chairman Eric Nicoli



*Including £3.6m for Nicoli

made substantial loans to Dennis companies.

Dennis was not accused by UMB of corrupting Doherty. No action was taken by UMB and all the loans made to Dennis companies were repaid. Clear evidence that everything was legal and appropriate. As would be expected from any Labour donor.

Just why Capital & Provident – if it did – donated to Labour is unclear. Mainly because Jonathan Dennis declined to respond to questions asking about the donation.

THE Royal Bank of Scotland's Jersey-based subsidiary is staring down the barrel of a big loss and possible investigation by local regulators as a result of its far too close association with convicted pension thief Gerald Smith and the cash-strapped Orb group.

Royal Bank of Scotland International is already in the Orb frame because it received the £33m Smith and his accomplices stole from the cash "shell" Izodia last year. What happened to that money is now the subject of an investigation by the Serious Farce Office, which raided Orb's Jersey offices last December and threatened legal proceedings by Izodia against RBSI.

The suspicion is that Izodia's money was mainly used to pay off pressing Orb debts which is why the money cannot now be returned. Several Orb companies have been forced into administration in recent months, two by RBS.

The Jersey financial services commission would do well to explore how and why RBSI was so generous to Orb, run by the Jersey-based Smith, who is said to have developed a close relationship with one of the local directors.

Evidence of that relationship can be found alongside the harbour at Poole in Dorset where RBSI has no less than £56m riding on the Dolphin Quays development which, until last week, was stalled. After four months builder Taylor Woodrow has resumed work on the 105 luxury apartments and retail development although it is estimated it is owed some £9m to completion. The RBSI loan was due to have been repaid in July but the bank had little alternative to extend.

Orb owns Dolphin Quays whose developer is in RBSI-enforced administration along with celebrated Poole Pottery which occupies an adjacent site but was originally where Dolphin Quays now rises. RBSI is the main lender to both companies. Orb recently sold the nextdoor Thistle Hotel to Newcastle developer Allan Rankin, who at one time was put forward by Smith as the purchaser of Orb's 37 other Thistle hotels.

Experts estimate that even if the existing Dolphin Quays development is completed, RBSI could still lose up to £25m. Orb's other creditors are unlikely to receive any payback. This includes shareholders in Quays Group, the Orb-controlled former Alexanders Holdings "shell" from which £11m was extracted, Izodia-style, last year in return for the Poole properties.

Royal Bank of Scotland as well as the JFSC would do well to press RBSI to explain what it was doing lending so much to a company run by a convicted criminal. Hardly impressive evidence of "Know Your Customer".

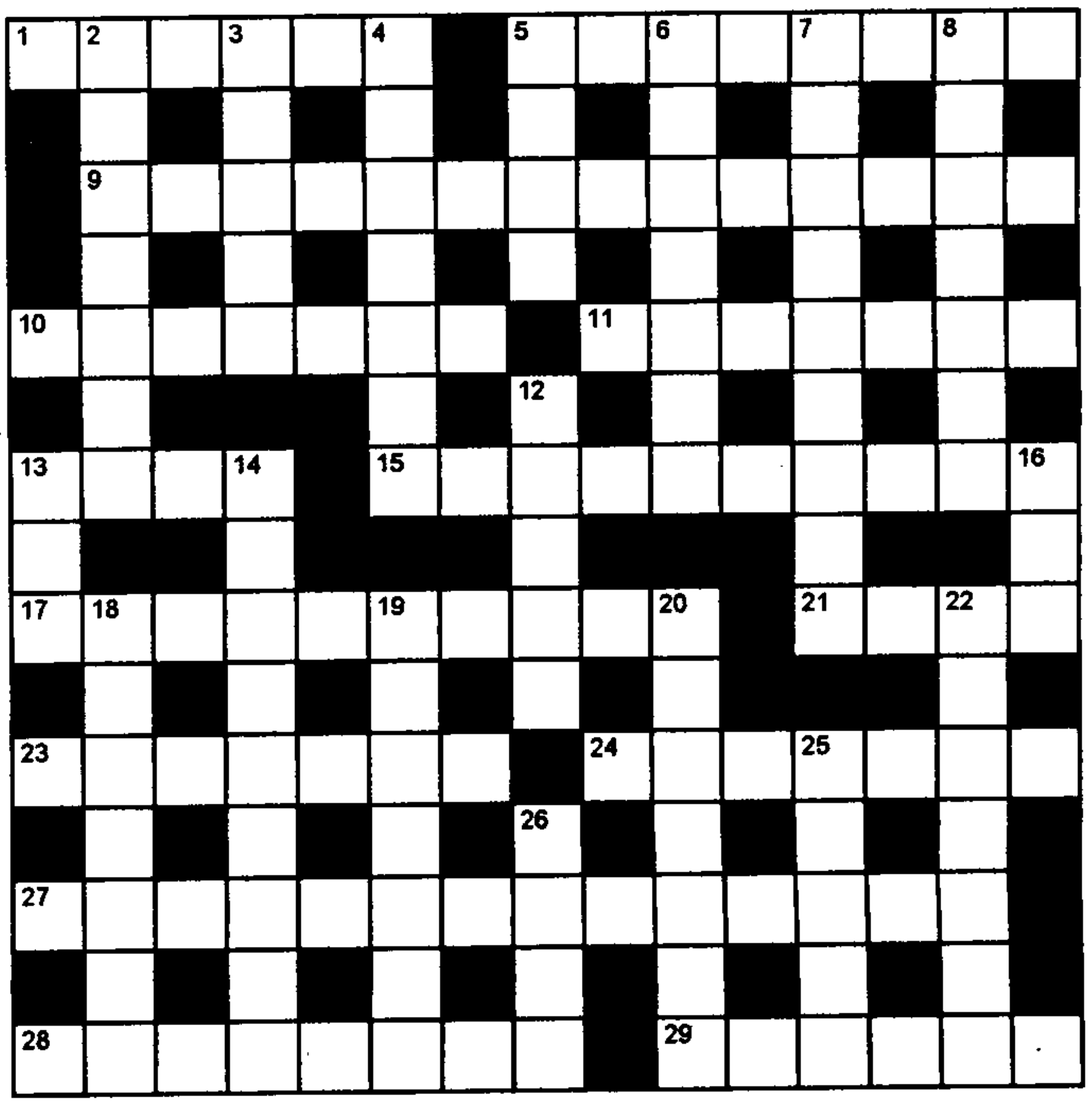
'Slicker'

EYE CROSSWORD 246

by Cyclops

£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 24 October 2003.

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk



ACROSS

1 House gets Maxwell (heaven finally acquired) to mix with betters (6)

5 Immoderate piss-taking occasions (5-3)

9 See 5 Down

10 Maybe Paris is replacing one with sod all gentlemen (7)

11 "Cyclops is too old for love" (lay-it-on-thick technique) (7)

13 Try switching nuts around (4)

15 Looking sick at fair – leave (5 5)

17 Phone box trashed by leaders of 'Inner Camden Against Outsiders' (10)

21 Hack heart from homosexual being irritable (4)

23 Co-ed providing Casanova with brief amusement? (7)

24 Smooth writer's fondled end (4-3)

27 'Stink' a north country unloved member of Police gets personal drug tester possibly (5 6-3)

28 Tail-end of Iain Duncan Smith's top "elite" off guard (8)

29 Stupid NOP git getting pissed (6)

DOWN

2 Tosser "liberating" nations (7)

3 Blunt's unpunctuated bum moved in two ways (5)

4 *Sex – New Introduction to Using One's Horn* (7)

5/9 US government's bloody useless small-minded hostile initiatives and bureaucratic activity (4 14)

6 Eight orgasmic moaners? (7)

7 New IRA terrorist leader: "Semtex pointless – it prolongs the contest" (5 4)

8 Pejorative Gay's short opera about "Confused of Hat—" (7)

12 In Callander by-election race (5)

13/16 Not for those wanting a conventional ride aboard "Essex to Yorkshire" (3 3)

14 Woman atop Chuck spread over the telly (9)

16 See 13 Down

18 "Teletubby quits *Penthouse*" – do show interest (7)

19 Hired help with heater protects many an American (7)

20 Hardly a New Labour leader's kind (7)

22 Taking the plunge medal about one and getting elected (5 2)

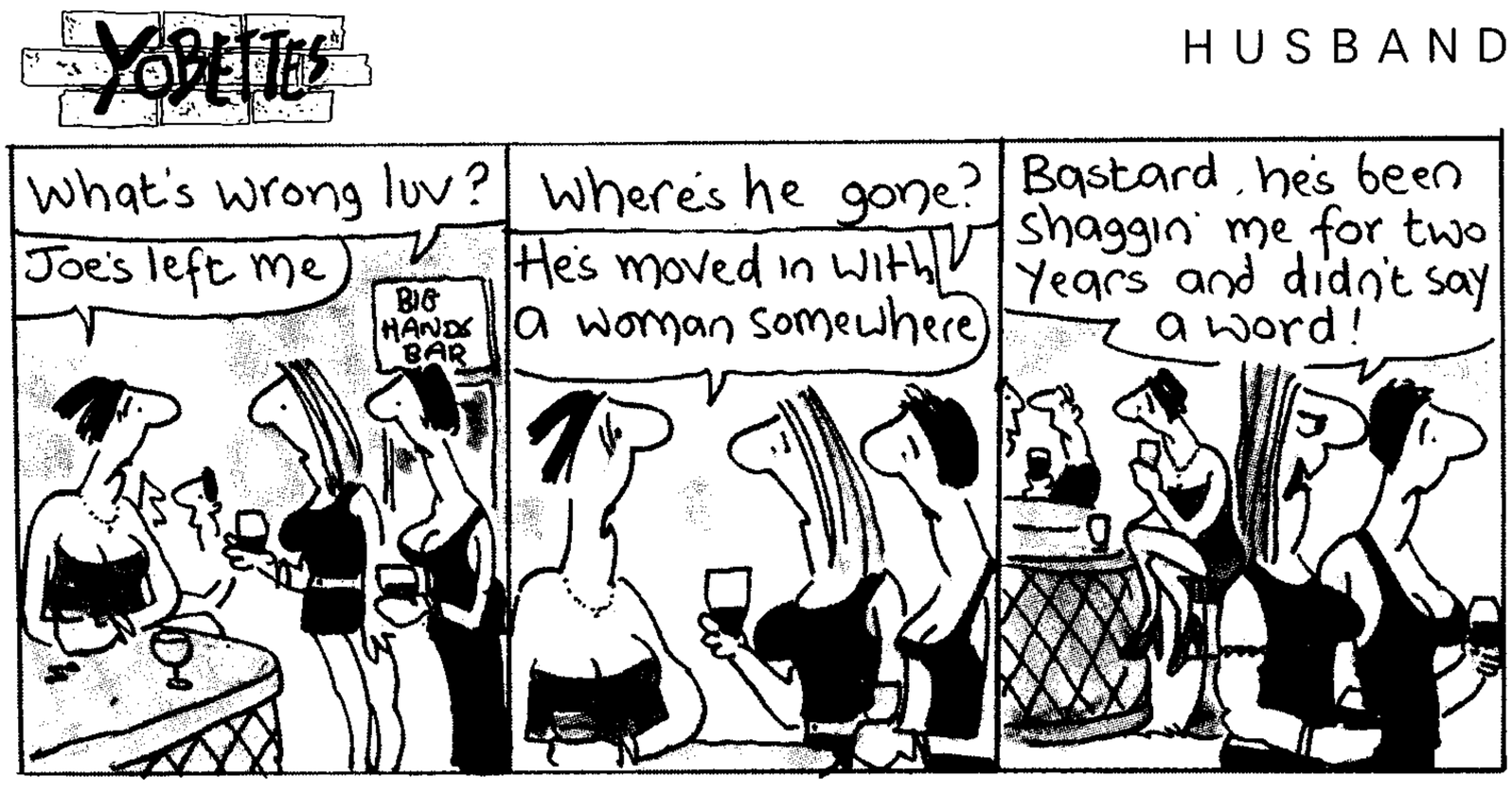
25 Object of spin: to elevate and refresh (3 2)

26 Screwed up face (4)

Crossword 245 winner: JIM DUNN

ACROSS: 9 Embryonic 10 Oomph 11 Speed dating 12 Nam 13 Tesco 14 Polemists 16 Stars and Stripes 19 Tit for tat 22 Mirth 24 IVF 26 A bit of a goer 27 Havel 28 Koala bear.

DOWN: 1 Jet-set 2 Objets d'art 3 Eyedrops 4 Encamp 5 W C Fields 6 Dodgem 7 Amin 8 Chemises 15 Supermodel 16 Sit tight 17 Nit-picks 18 Rum babas 20 Orally 21 Trojan 23 Harare 25 Fave.


YOBETTES
HUSBAND
What's wrong luv?
Joe's left me
BIG HANDY BAR
Where's he gone?
He's moved in with a woman somewhere
Bastard, he's been shaggin' me for two years and didn't say a word!

£1 The Chambers Dictionary
The most authoritative dictionary available, this new edition includes over 215,000 references, 300,000 definitions and thousands of new entries. It is the choice of most professional writers and academics.

Hardback Price £30.00 2

£1 Sex for One: The Joy of Selfloving
by Betty Dodson
Respected sex expert Betty Dodson's bestselling book, first published in 1986 and now thoroughly revised, tackles one of society's final taboos: masturbation.

Sexually explicit
Paperback Price £15.99 18

£1 Mary, Queen of Scots and the Murder of Lord Darnley
by Alison Weir
A riveting reappraisal from bestselling historian Alison Weir, which uses contemporary evidence to show how far Mary, Queen of Scots, was implicated in the death of her husband, Lord Darnley.

Hardback Price £20.00 19

£1 Philip's Concise World Atlas: 13th Edition
Colourful, user-friendly and full of up-to-date information about our world, the 13th edition of the bestselling *Philip's Concise World Atlas* is an invaluable family reference for every home.

Hardback Price £19.99 32

£1 Pears Cyclopaedia 2003–2004
edited by Chris Cook
Fully revised and updated, this comprehensive reference provides an authoritative yet highly readable insight into our ever-changing world. Whatever your question, you'll find the answer in *Pears*.

Hardback Price £16.99 33

£1 An A–Z of Almost Everything
by Trevor Montague
If you're a quiz-setter seeking trivia to pursue and questions to confound, you'll love dipping into this irresistible compendium of essential information and mind-expanding must-knows.

Hardback Price £25.00 3

£1 The Luck Factor
by Dr Richard Wiseman
Ever wondered why some people lead happy, successful lives while others consistently fail? An award-winning psychologist has discovered that luck can be learned, and here he reveals how.

Paperback Price £9.99 22

£1 The Penguin TV Companion 2nd Edition
by Jeff Evans
A useful, entertaining and thoroughly comprehensive guide to UK TV that boasts a wealth of information on hundreds of programmes, actors, writers, producers and directors.

Paperback Price £12.99 17

£1 The Character of Cats/The Truth About Dogs
by Stephen Budiansky
In these entertaining, informative books, the author puts our feline friends and canine companions on the psychologist's couch to reveal why they behave as they do.

Two books count as one choice
Paperback Price £15.98 42

£1 The Universe in a Nutshell
by Stephen Hawking
In this sequel to *A Brief History of Time* Stephen Hawking explains the workings of the universe, tackling every topic from black holes to the Theory of Everything.

Hardback
Hardback Price £20.00 38

£1 Albion
by Peter Ackroyd
Take a dazzling journey through English cultural history with the acclaimed historian Peter Ackroyd. His magisterial examination is enlivened throughout with colourful examples and anecdotes.

Hardback Price £25.00 23

£1 A History of Britain: Volume 3
by Simon Schama
Award-winning historian Simon Schama illuminates the period between 1776 and 2000 in the final part of his three-volume history of Britain (which accompanies the acclaimed BBC TV series).

Hardback Price £25.00 1

£1 The Bible Code 2
by Michael Drosnin
Here is the extraordinary follow-up to Michael Drosnin's controversial bestseller *The Bible Code*, which detailed a prophetic code embedded in the ancient books of the Torah.

Hardback
Hardback Price £18.99 6

£1 The Grouchy Grammartan
by Thomas Parrish
In this clever, amusing guide Thomas Parrish and his fictional friend, the Grouchy Grammarian, expose the 47 most common mistakes in English, made by those who should know better.

TSP Exclusive. Club Price £10.99 7

£1 The Oxford Manual of Style
by R. M. Ritter
The ultimate guide to style, procedure and presentation in written English – essential for editors and writers alike!

Hardback Price £25.00 8

3 books. £3.
No Commitment...
Fact or Fiction?

£1 The Lord of the Rings: Three-volume set
by J. R. R. Tolkien
Three exclusive, superb-quality softback editions of J. R. R. Tolkien's epic adventure, featuring the author's own maps, chronologies and family trees.

Three books count as one choice.
Hardback Price £50.97 5

£1 Collectables Price Guide 2003
by Judith Miller
From antiques expert Judith Miller, this full-colour A–Z guide to more than 5,000 collectables is an invaluable reference for anyone interested in buying, selling or collecting memorabilia.

Hardback
Hardback Price £17.99 14

£1 A History of Britain: Volume 1
by Simon Schama
The first book of a masterly three-volume study, this reviews Britain's extraordinary past between the prehistoric era and 1603.

Hardback Price £25.00 27

£1 The History Today Who's Who in British History
edited by Juliet Gardiner
From Julius Caesar to the present day, *Who's Who in British History* is a magnificent biographical dictionary that includes 4,000 prominent characters across all fields of endeavour.

Hardback Price £16.99 4

£1 A Devil's Chaplain
by Richard Dawkins
A fascinating collection of essays, lectures and articles from Richard Dawkins, one of our most important scientists. With elegant and passionate prose, he expounds some of his finest ideas in these short works.

Hardback Price £16.99 16

£1 How to Dunk a Doughnut
by Len Fisher
Remember the research team who were mocked for revealing the physics of dunking a biscuit? One of its key associates here presents more silly but illuminating insights into the science of commonplace phenomena.

Hardback Price £12.99 20

£1 Everyday Law
by Aviva Golden
Fully updated and packed with practical information, this fourth edition of the bestselling family reference is a clear, user-friendly guide to how the law affects you in everyday life.

Paperback Price £14.99 24

£1 Get Anyone to Do Anything and Never Feel Powerless Again
by David J. Lieberman
Tired of being taken advantage of? The best-selling author of *Never be Lied to Again* shows you how to take control of your business and personal relationships.

TSP Exclusive. Club Price £9.99 25

£1 The Writer's Handbook 2003
by Barry Turner
Now in its 16th bestselling year, this new edition of the complete reference for wordsmiths of all kinds contains more than 5,500 entries, covering every area of creative writing.

Paperback Price £12.99 40

£1 Chambers Biographical Dictionary
Revised and updated to include hundreds of new entries, this invaluable reference is the most comprehensive and authoritative single-volume biographical dictionary you can buy.

Hardback Price £35.00 26

£1 The Motley Fool UK Investment Guide: Third Edition
by David Berger with David and Tom Gardener
Invest for a profitable future with this no-nonsense workbook full of practical examples and advice.

Paperback Price £12.99 15

£1 Brewer's Rogues, Villains and Eccentrics
by Willie Donaldson
This absorbing A–Z provides pen-portraits of 1,500 extraordinary characters from British and Irish history.

Hardback Price £20.00 21

£1 Rory and Ita
by Roddy Doyle
Booker Prize-winning author Roddy Doyle has become Ireland's most famous living writer. His latest book – his first-ever work of non-fiction – is a tender and compelling memoir of his parents' lives.

Hardback Price £16.99 31

£1 Roget's Thesaurus
Produced to mark the 150th anniversary of the original *Roget's Thesaurus*, this fully revised and updated edition of the world's most trusted synonym-finder is the ultimate desk companion.

Hardback Price £16.99 34

£1 A History Of Britain: Volume 2
by Simon Schama
The second volume of Schama's masterly history of Britain focuses on the 17th and 18th centuries, a tumultuous time of power struggles at home and abroad.

Hardback Price £25.00 12

£1 The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales
edited by Maria Tatar
Once the preserve of a lively oral tradition, fairy tales have become sanitised in popular culture. But, as this wonderful anthology shows, there is much more to them than meets the eye.

Hardback Price £28.50 9

£1 The Light of Day
by Graham Swift
A private investigator is given what seems a simple case – only to become infatuated with his client in this profound, intricate story of love, jealousy and obsession.

Hardback Price £16.99 13

£1 Manage Your Mind
by Gillian Butler and Tony Hope
Oxford psychiatrists Butler and Hope explain seven basic strategies that will allow you to build your self-confidence, overcome anxiety, manage your time, break bad habits and develop your full potential.

Paperback Price £11.99 10

£1 Y: The Descent of Men
by Steve Jones
In his first book since the best-selling *Almost Like a Whale*, the UK's most eminent geneticist presents a fascinating and brilliantly written exploration of the biological reasons for the human male.

Hardback Price £14.99 30

£1 The Ultimate Book of Notes and Queries
edited by Joseph Harker
The Notes & Queries column from the *Guardian* brings you informed and ingenious answers to brainteasers that range from the profound to the preposterous and the informed to the idiotic.

Paperback Price £9.99 35

£1 The Concise Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy
A more accessible and affordable form of the ten-volume version, *The Concise Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* boasts over 2,000 entries, a full conceptual index and extensive cross-referencing.

Paperback Price £25.00 37

£1 The Good, the Bad and the Difference
by Randy Cohen
A former writer on the David Letterman show, Randy Cohen presents submissions to his *New York Times* column, The Ethicist, which offers helpful but amusing advice on the public's moral dilemmas.

Hardback Price £12.99 41

£1 The Blank Slate
by Steven Pinker
The author of the classic text *The Language Instinct*, Steven Pinker is one of the world's leading scientists. Now, in his best book to date, he offers an explosive contribution to the nature-nurture debate.

Hardback Price £25.00 11

£1 A Short History of Nearly Everything
by Bill Bryson
Swapping his battered suitcase for a library card, legendary travel-writer Bill Bryson sets off on his most exciting journey of all – into the realms of scientific knowledge, past and present.

Hardback
Hardback Price £20.00 28

£1 Upgrading and Fixing PCs For Dummies
by Andy Rathbone
The Dummies' use of simple explanations and step-by-step guidance will help you get the job done properly. It's updated to cover the latest PC features such as Windows XP OS.

Paperback Price £16.50 29

£1 Guide to Getting It On
by Paul Joannides
There are subtle guides to sex, there are downright unambiguous guides to sex – and then there's this one! A bestseller in America, it covers every aspect of sex in a truly graphic style.

Sexually explicit
Paperback Price £14.99 36

£1 How to Beat the System
by Annie Ashworth and Meg Sanders
This indispensable new book from the co-editors of *Trade Secrets* contains advice from experts which reveals how to unravel the red tape of bureaucracy and get the most out of everyday situations.

Paperback Price £12.99 39

The Softback Preview, BCA, Swindon, SN99 9XX

TSP DOESN'T commit you to buying more books

- **Satisfaction guaranteed.** You choose three books listed here for only £1 each (+ £3.99 p&p). If you are not satisfied for any reason, simply return the books within ten days and owe nothing.
- **Best selections.** You will receive our FREE *Preview* magazine – offering significant savings on over 100 titles ranging from reference and biography to fiction and science – each month for six issues, after which you can cancel whenever you wish.
- **Handsome editions.** TSP softback books have quality soft covers and are just like the original hardback edition in every detail – except for the price!
- **Great savings.** All our books are chosen for their literary merit or special interest and offered to you at up to 50% off the publishers' prices.
- **Freedom of choice.** Each *Preview* features a Recommended Title. There is no obligation to take this title. If you do not want to receive it then simply say so on the form provided.
- **Exclusive online benefits.** Order online, view your account, pre-order books and discover thousands more titles.
- No commitment. You do not have to buy any more books from TSP . . . ever!

Apply online at www.view.eTSP.co.uk quoting your passcode **C6903**

SEND NO MONEY NOW. NO STAMP REQUIRED PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO:
THE SOFTBACK PREVIEW, FREEPOST, BIRMINGHAM, B26 3UE

10 Days' Home Trial **YES!** Please send me the books I have indicated below and enrol me as a member of The Softback Preview. Please invoice me for the introductory offer price for each book. I am then under no commitment to buy another book . . . ever!

PLEASE INDICATE BY NUMBER YOUR 3 CHOICES: ☐ ☐ ☐

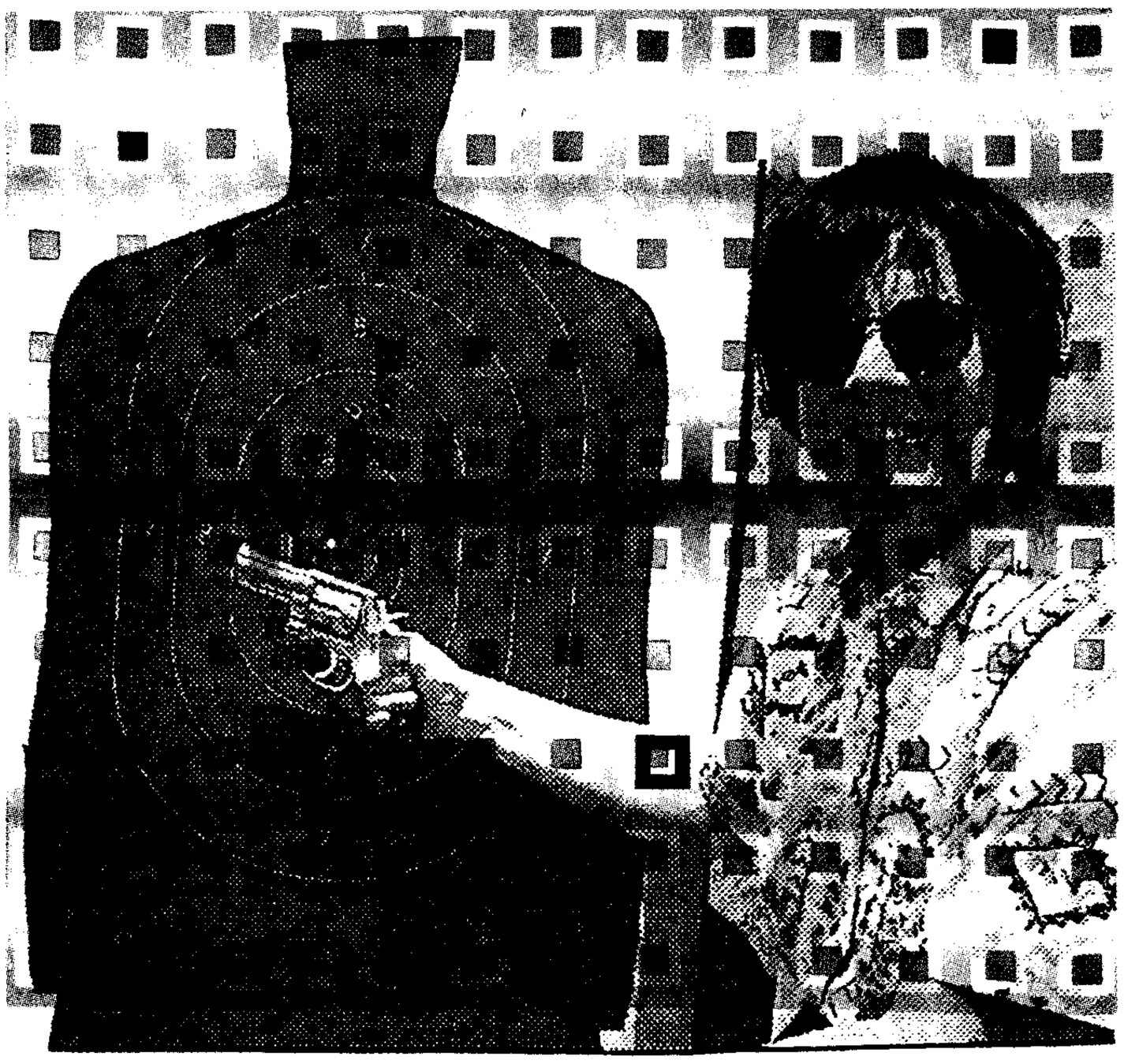
ADD TO YOUR IMMEDIATE SAVINGS. Choose an optional 4th book for only £4.99 with no additional postage costs ▶ £ ☐

PLUS Now you can also order an optional 5th book at the same special price of only £4.99, still with no additional postage costs ▶ £ ☐

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____ First Name _____
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)
Surname _____
Address _____
_____
_____
Postcode _____ Tel no. _____
(inc STD code)

I am over 18 years of age. Offer available in the UK only. TSP membership is limited to one per household. Please allow 14 days for delivery. Membership is subject to acceptance. If you do not wish to be contacted by BCA by phone, fax or e-mail please tick box ☐ by other parties offering you their services or products please tick box ☐

C6903



Sigmar Polke: History of Everything

2 October 2003 – 4 January 2004

Supported by **Tate International Council**
Exhibition organised by the Dallas Museum of Art

Tate Modern
Bankside, London SE1

Southwark/Blackfriars
Bankside

Book now on
020 7887 8888

Visit
www.tate.org.uk

MODERN TATE

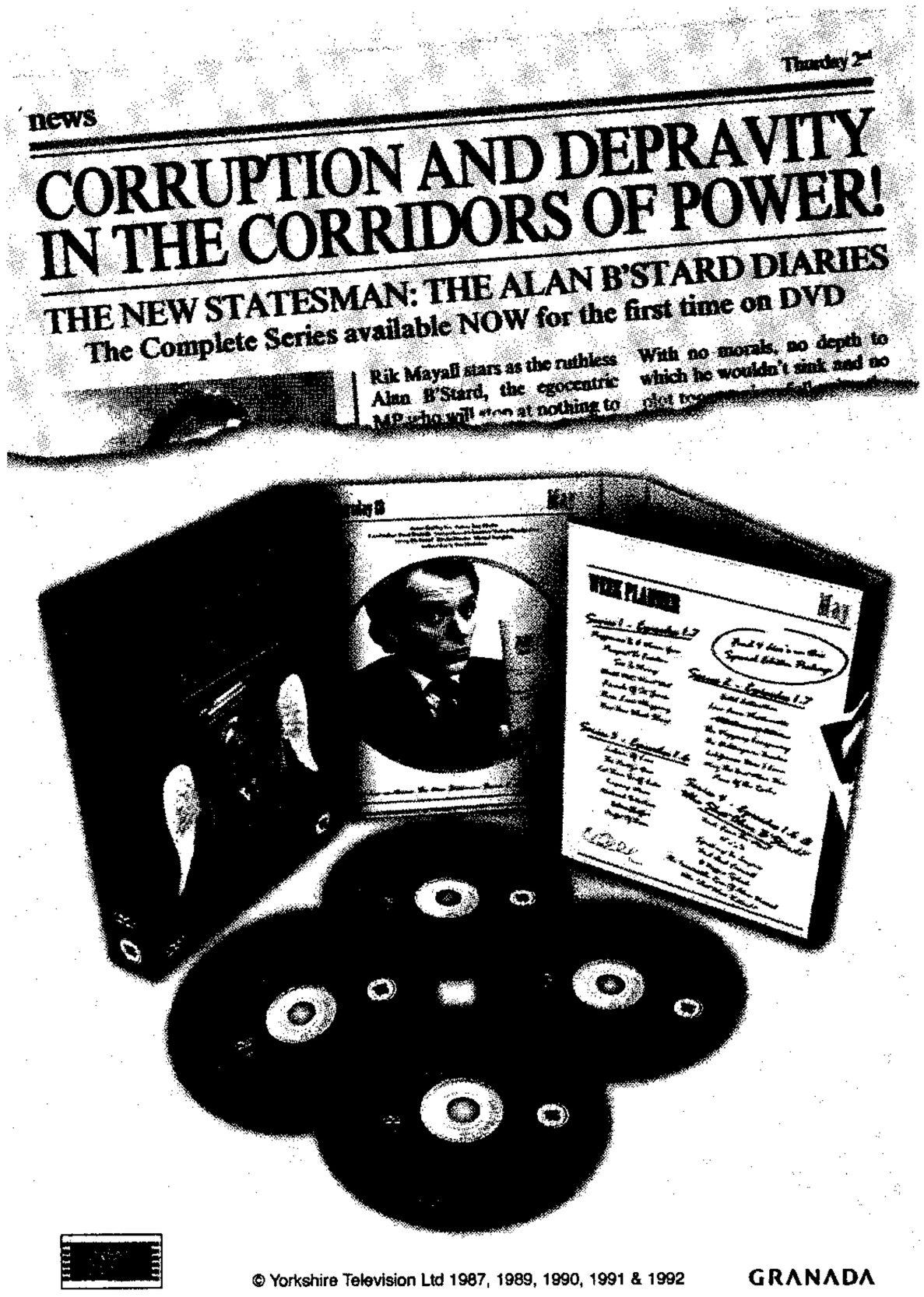
I Don't Really Think About Anything Too Much, 2002, courtesy Michael Werner, New York and Cologne
© 2003 Sigmar Polke, courtesy of the artist and Michael Werner, New York and Cologne.

LORD of the RINGS

LIMITED EDITION BOARDGAME

If the person you love also loves Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, this Christmas treat them to something that will make them very happy indeed: a Limited Edition (500 copies) Lord of the Rings boardgame. "Awesome" said Games Magazine of the actual game. This edition comes with a certified 24 carat gold over Sterling silver ring (40mm diameter) as well as a specially printed -and numbered- illustration by John Howe
.

We don't have that many left, so please don't delay. You can order it from:
<https://secure.lordoftherings-boardgame.com/buy1.html>
or by telephone from Sophisticated Games Ltd, 01223 462400. The price is £150: we will deliver free of charge for all orders received before November 10th. The first 50 applicants will also receive, without any charge, a copy of Lord of the Rings: The Duel, which is a brand new 2-player game, retail value £19.99.


news
Thursday 2nd
CORRUPTION AND DEPRAVITY IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER!
THE NEW STATESMAN: THE ALAN B'STARD DIARIES
The Complete Series available NOW for the first time on DVD
Rik Mayall stars as the ruthless Alan B'Stard, the egocentric
With no morals, no depth to which he wouldn't sink and no
WEEK PLANNER
Wed

© Yorkshire Television Ltd 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991 & 1992 GRANADA

OUR CHRISTMAS CARDS HAVE ARRIVED!

DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PRIVATE EYE

2 of each design make a set of 12 cards
ONLY £8 or **FREE** to new subscribers

Our Christmas cards are very popular and we only print a limited stock. Please order early to ensure fulfilment

order online at www.private-eye.co.uk

or use the forms below and send with your payment to:

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS, PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8FA

ORDER FORM CHRISTMAS CARDS ONLY

Please send me:

❒ 1 set of Christmas cards @ £8 *or*

❒ 2 sets for £14 (additional sets £7.00) – FREE P&P

No of sets_____Total enclosed £_____(cheques payable to PRIVATE EYE)

OR ❒ Please charge my MasterCard/VISA/SWITCH (issue number_____)

Card number: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_| |_|_|_| (SWITCH only)

Expiry date: |_|_|_|_|

Signature _____Date_____

Title_____Initial_____ Surname_____

Address _____

_____Postcode_____

Daytime telephone number
(in case we have a query with the order)_____

Email_____

or DIAL-A-CARD PLEASE ALLOW 14 DAYS FOR DELIVERY

0870 750 1713 Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm
(overseas callers +44 (0) 1795 414 870)

ORDER FORM FREE CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS

❒ UK £21.00 ❒ Europe & Eire £29.00 ❒ Rest of World £35.00

❒ I enclose a Sterling cheque payable to PRIVATE EYE (overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order)

OR ❒ Please charge my MasterCard/VISA/SWITCH (issue number_____)

Card number: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_| |_|_|_| (SWITCH only)

Expiry date: |_|_|_|_| Signature _____Date_____

Please send PRIVATE EYE for one year (26 issues) to: ❒ For me ❒ As a gift

Title_____Initial_____ Surname_____

Address _____

_____Postcode_____

Please send FREE CHRISTMAS CARDS to:

Title_____Initial_____ Surname_____

Address _____

_____Postcode_____

Please start subscription with: ☐ **Next available issue**
☐ **12 December issue**
☐ **26 December issue**
☐ **9 January issue**

or DIAL-A-SUB

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm 0870 750 1714
(overseas callers +44 (0) 1795 414 871)

Source code: N1091

A CHAMPION FOR EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP.

COULD IT BE YOU?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. c£55K & BENEFITS

Think of organisations like the John Lewis Partnership, a shining example of industrial democracy in which every employee is a partner with a stake in the business. There are many others like them, though the concept and socio-economic benefits of Employee Ownership remain on the periphery of economic policy. You could play a key role in raising its profile and increasing its adoption.

Job Ownership Limited is a unique not-for-profit company with a mission to promote the ownership and control of enterprises of all kinds by the people who work in them. We represent the interests of leading employee-owned companies and co-ordinate the promotion of employee ownership in the UK. We are now looking to appoint an Executive Director to carry the campaign forward.

This would make a highly rewarding new challenge for someone with the experience and gravitas to influence policy-makers and opinion-formers, including senior business leaders, politicians, trade union leaders, academics and civil servants. Whether or not you have had direct exposure to employee-ownership, an emphatic belief in the philosophy and its overall benefits will be crucial. Besides a broad awareness of economic and social politics, you must of course have effective communication and interpersonal skills plus, ideally, experience of dealing with the media, writing reports and commissioning research.

Do you have the energy and the passion to be our champion? Do you want a role which gives you the chance to make a real difference, and the freedom to shape strategy and its implementation?

To find out more, contact Carol Kennedy on 01933 666 788 to obtain an application pack. Completed applications to be returned by 4th November 2003. Initial interviews will be held in London on 21st November 2003.

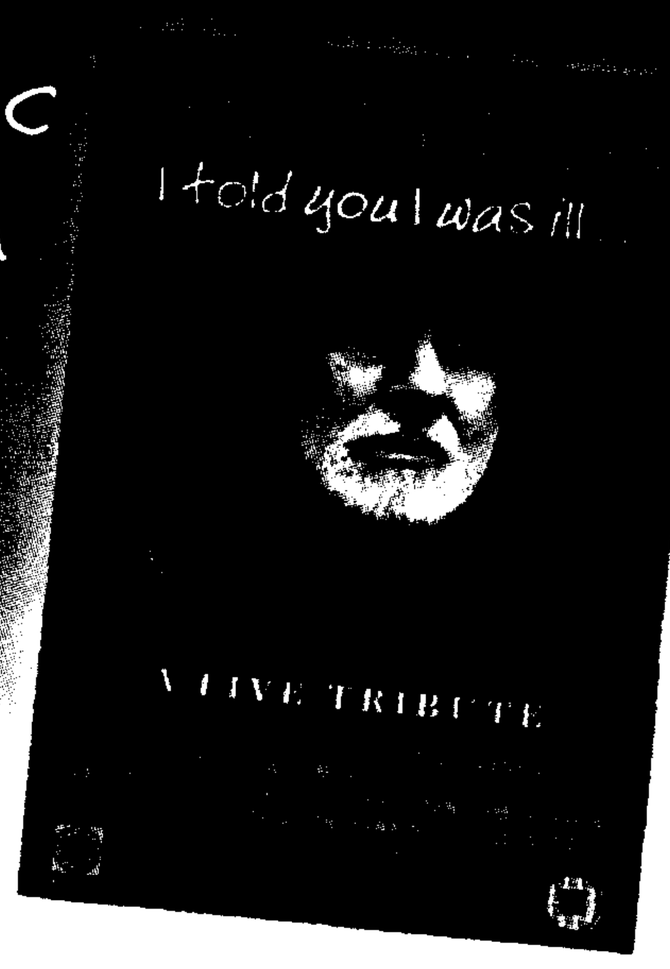
www.jobownership.co.uk

JOB OWNERSHIP

We seek to ensure that no applicant is treated less favourably because of race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability

I told you I was ill...

An unforgettable selection of comic highlights from the life of Milligan



Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan,
Paul Merton, Michael Palin, Eric Sykes,
Kathy Burke, Stephen Tompkinson,
Cleo Lane, The Johnny Dankworth Quintet
and John Sargeant

ODYSSEY

DVD on Sale from 27th October 2003

All producer royalties donated to the Square Smiles charity.

£12.99

TEEMARTO.COM

Did you hear the joke about the non-Private Eye reader who spent £25,000 on a pool but wouldn't spend £250.00 to make it crystal clear, safe, economical and environmentally friendly?

There is still time to ionize your pool before winter. Winterizing and start up chemicals will not be necessary and half the cost of a Floatron can be saved. Our accountants inform us that from next month we must charge VAT on Floatrons!

A proven success worldwide, Floatron will prevent your pool and pond water turning green, minimise maintenance to around ten minutes each week, and save you 80% on chemical costs.

It is the only solar powered portable pool and pond purifier that's the size of a Frisbee and comes with a two-year warranty. It costs nothing to fit and works well with a pool cover.

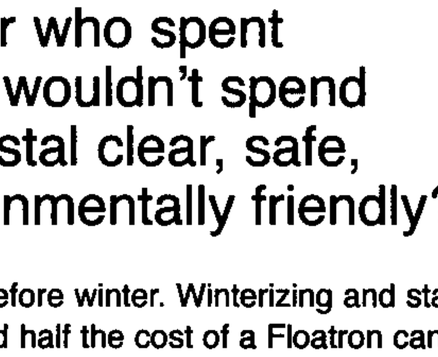
See customer testimonials and answers to FAQ's at www.floatron.co.uk

Call **01256 770246** or email **info@floatron.co.uk** to place an order or to request your brochure and free CD.

Yours,

Richard Gibbins
Floatron UK
Agents for AquaMat Pool Covers and Accessories at discounted prices.

PS. If you're using Floatron in your pond when your pool is closed, please contact us for instructions. Existing Private Eye Floatron owners please read opening/ closing instructions.

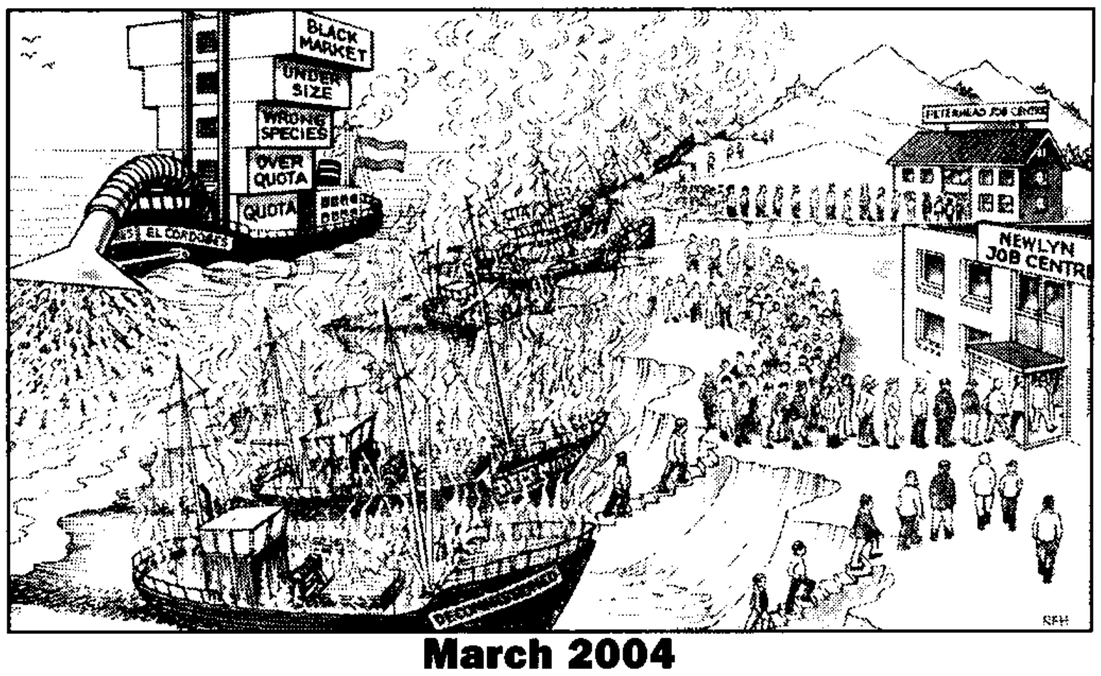


floatron®

Prodi will hate it...
Kinnock won't get it...
UK politicians will pretend it's not there...

...the irreverent, no holds barred,
NO EURO – KEEP OUR POUND
Who Governs Britain - *Westminster or Brussels?* -

2004 Calendar



March 2004

With *11 more* black & white line drawings, each with 'explanatory' text, depicting various ways this country is being shafted by the European Union

'Collector's' edition – *buy before it's banked!*

Response coupon
To: Cards & Calendars, 1 Home Park, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0JS
I enclose cheque, payable UKIP Merchandising, for ..... 2004 Calendars @ £5.99p (or 5 for £22.99) = £.....(incl. p+p)

Name.....

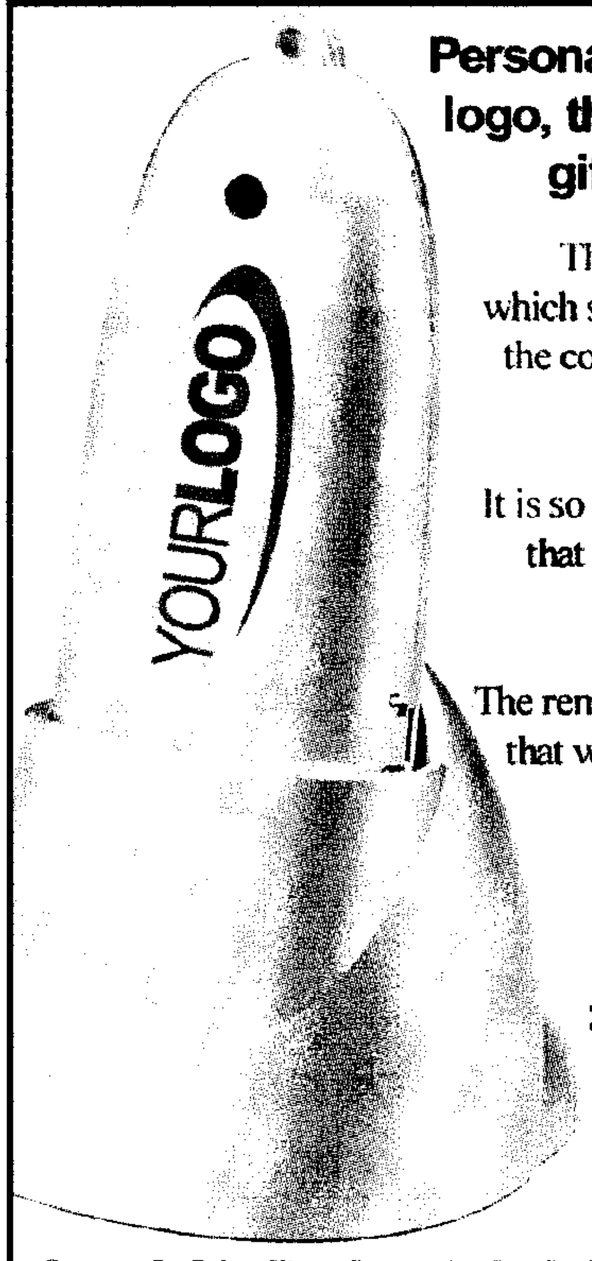
Address .....

.....

Post Code.....Tel.....

To pay by credit card, please ring 020 7434 4559

THE ULTIMATE CORPORATE GIFT

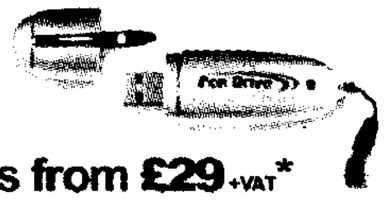


Personalised with your company logo, the PenDrive is the perfect gift for your clients or staff.

The PenDrive is a plug & play device which simply plugs into any USB port and the computer automatically detects it as a removable drive.

It is so compact (size of a cigarette lighter) that you can carry it with you anywhere and hardly notice its existence!

The removable PenDrive is a powerful tool that will be used daily by your clients for both business and personal use.



> Prices from £29 +VAT*
> Quantities from as low as 20 units undertaken

** 64MB USB 2.0 version with Docking Station*

Contents: PenDrive (Silver), Presentation Box, Docking Station, Neck Strap, USB Extension Lead, CD

Jade tec
sales 0113 281 7788
fax 0870 138 4213
sales@jadetec.co.uk
www.jadetec.co.uk

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

★ EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES

020-7937 6263
www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

...and suppers too!

Only lunch

ONLY LUNCH

the professional introduction service

HOW PEOPLE LIKE YOU
MEET PEOPLE LIKE YOU
0800 908900
www.onlylunch.co.uk

The
Blue Angel Club

welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.
Open Monday to Friday from 6.30pm until late
Membership not required.
17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 020 7636 2178

HEART HUNTING

SPECIALIST SEARCH
MATCHING HEARTS & MINDS
"CARPE DIEM" - SEIZE THE DAY!
www.hearthunting.com
TEL: +44 (0)20 7590 3157 **FAX: +44 (0)20 7590 9601**
64 KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON SW1X 7JF

Want to be part of the official opposition?

Call us to get the story on 020 8640 3696

Journalism Training Centre

info@jtctraining.com www.jtctraining.com

To reach over
600,000
potential customers please call David Lancaster on 020 7878 2316 or Carol Imlay on 020 7878 2303 to discuss advertising in
PRIVATE EYE

PURE FRENCH WINE
THE EEC ALLOWS 27 ADDITIVES IN WINE
DRINK DISOS
CAUTION DISOS IS STRONG!
NOT SOLD IN CALAIS
NOT SUPPLIED TO LARGE SUPERMARKET OR OFF LICENSE CHAINS
TELL YOUR FRIENDS
12% NATURAL ALCOHOL
GREAT VALUE - SO PURE

NO LOCAL STOCKIST
ENGLAND BUY A CASE
STATE RED OR WHITE CHEQUE WITH ORDER TO DISOS LTD. £55

SW19	NELSON 168 MERTON HIGH ST	★WEST/MIDS/WALES★	
KINGSTON	RIVERSIDE VEGETARIA	COWBRIDGE	GLYN JENKINS 31 HIGH ST
		EXETER	TOPSHAM NEWS FORE STHIGH ST
★SOUTH & EAST★		LEAMINGTON SPA	COUNTRY BUMKINS
BANBURY AREA	HOOK NORTON MACE	NOTTINGHAM	BEESTON FOOD & WINE
BASINGSTOKE	CANTERTON STORES	ST. CLEARS	HAPPY SHOPPER MKT
BOURNEMOUTH	GRAHAMS CHARMINSTER RD	STAMFORD	SIMPOLE-CLARKE ST. PAUL ST
BRENTWOOD	COPPERFIELD WINES	WEYMOUTH	BON APPETIT
CAMBRIDGE	GREAT EVERSDEN P.O.	★NORTH & SCOTLAND★	
	FORMBY WINES	BIRKENSHAW	MOON ON A STICK
CHELMSFORD	MOULSHAM SUPERSTORES	BOROBRIDGE	DELI 27
CHICHESTER AREA	COMPTON VILL STRS	BRIGHOUSE	CZERNIK COMMERCIAL ST
CODICOTE	J. ROBERTS HIGH ST	CARTMEL VILLAGE STORE	
COLD NORTON	COUNTRY PRODUCE	DAVENPORT	WOODSMOOR POST OFFICE
DORCHESTER	PUDDLETON P&O SALL	DIDSBURY	CHEEBE HAMPER
HARPENDEN	CHEERS 105 LUTON RD	DUNBAR	FOOD HAMPERS HIGH ST
HORSHAM	ST. LEONARDS STORES	EDINBURGH	COLLINGTON BONALY CORNER SHOP
MILTON KEYNES	WILLEN LAKERS SMKT		DUKE ST
NORWICH		KEITHLEY	EASTBURN POST OFFICE
REDHILL	LONDIS 63 HORLEY RD	LONGFRAMLINGTON	CARRS
SAWBRIDGEWORTH	HIGH WYCH POST OFF.	MACCLESFIELD	HARVEYS OF HENBURY
SOUTHSEA	CONVENMKT 96 FAWCETT RD	MANCHESTER	OLIVE DELI WHITWORTH ST
WATFORD	?ORBITAL FOOD & WINE	MARPLE	BARRATTS STOCKPORT RD
		MOTHERWELL	DIGBYS MUIR ST
		ROCHDALE	SMITHY BR. LAKE SMKT
		SALE	CORNER HOUSE OFF LIC.
		SHEFFIELD	ARCHER RD BEER SHOP
		STIRLING	SCOTTS BARNTON ST
		STOCKPORT	MIDDLE HILLGATE LICO STR
		SWINTON	SANFORDS FOLLY LA
		WHITEFIELD	LEGENDARY LANCS HEROS
		WITHINGTON	ATULS WILMSLOW RD
		YORK	HAXBY RD POST OFFICE

U.K. AGENT, TONY BOFFEY, 0161 428 7666.
DISOS LTD., DISOS BUSINESS CENTRE,
50 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, GATLEY SK8 4PF
DRY FRUITY WHITE - SMOOTH STRONG RED

the BA
connecting science with people

X

6.30pm Wednesday 29 October
Royal Society of Arts
8 John Adam St, WC2

think, react, interfere

Comment on this month's big stories.

Exchange your views with leading commentators on the latest issues from health and the environment to sex and nanotechnology

Chair: journalist Toby Murcott

To submit a question, see speaker updates or book your place visit
www.the-ba.net/x-change

registered charity no: 212479

DO YOU *REALLY* KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT - WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!

Disloyalty can be dangerous. It's often damaging and invariably hurtful. Commercially, it's usually expensive. You may not like the idea of using 'bugging' equipment but it can heighten your awareness and help you anticipate. You'll be amazed how we conceal microphones and tiny cameras in the most innocent and ordinary everyday objects.

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.
Fax: 020 8558 1338
Central London Showroom:
59 South Audley Street, W1K 2QN
Web Site: www.lorraine.co.uk
TEL: 020 8558 4226

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2003. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk
020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

Discounted Worldwide Business Class Flights

To		To	
Mexico City	£1617	Quito	£2161
Douala	£1859	Atlanta	£1870
Caracas	£1430	Sao Paulo	£1859
Amman	£825	Los Angeles	£2310
Havana	£1670	Dubai	£1210

Savings of up to £2,500
on some routes - All Flights INDIRECT.

Other destinations available.
Taxes extra.
Small print advised at time of booking but nothing too onerous.
ABTA 28684

T:01753 889 567
gxx@advantagetravel.co.uk
IATA 91211411

PRIVATE EYE

CLASSIFIED 020 7240 9129

£2.50 per word (£25 min charge)
Colour box £12 Box number £12
All charges VAT inclusive

Deadline for next issue: October 22nd

You can email your ad to:
private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk
or fax: 020 7379 7118

Reply to Box Numbers at address below:
Private Eye,
McMillan-Scott,
10 Savoy Street
London WC2E 7HR

EYE ART

WARHOL STYLE high standard portraits from photographs... great Christmas gifts artake.com

EYE DETECT

LINK INVESTIGATIONS. Private and commercial investigators for all areas Tel: 01306 880707 Fax: 01306 888077. Email: info@linkinvestigations.co.uk - Web site: www.linkinvestigations.co.uk

LIAR! LIAR! Handheld lie detector Reliable portable electronic device for measuring truthfulness through voice. Only £37.95 inc p&p. Gdf Tech, 01302 818147 – www.gdf-tech.co.uk

EYE NOVELTIES

BIRTHDAY Newspapers FREEPHONE 0800 906609 www.historic-newspapers.co.uk

6 FOOT PHOTOBANNERS – £39.95. 0121 241 7878 – www.ctgraphics.co.uk

ANDY WARHOL-STYLE Personalised Portraits – "The Ideal Gift" – www.justlikeandy.com

EYE SEDUCE The art of seduction? Dig where the gold is, unless you need the exercise...! www.kouloura.com

BIRTHDAY DUE? Give someone an original newspaper. Dated very day they were born. £19, plus free old EYE. 01492 531195.

KINGDOM OF MUGG with Song of Baloney –www.authorsonline.co.uk/authors2001/bidd01/king01 download him.

"WHAT A BRILLIANT SITE!" Shop for fun @ www.gizmoandwidget.com

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE your unique message printed on the label delivered NEXTDAY nationwide £35 0800 583 8000 – www.nextdaychampagne.co.uk

TITLES – LORD, LADY etc. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

CARICATURES from photos. Caricaturist at PARTIES. www.blazerman.co.uk – 020 8449 1368.

"A SPECIAL PRESENT for a special person" www.name-your-own-rose.com

www.BrownPaper.co.uk – adult toys, sexy wear and naughties!

ART FROM PHOTOGRAPHS: nude, portrait, any subject. The intimate gift. £20: Karen Hull. Reply Box no. 69012

HOMESTAR ENTERTAINMENT. We shoot your very own personal adult movie with you as the star. Book now for solos, couples, groups, gay/straight. Tel: 0794 484 6601.

DRINK NUCLEAR WASTE and live. Ask me how. 020 8527 2513.

ASTROLOGICAL BIRTH-CHARTS with full interpretation, ideal birthday present. £20. Email: birthcharts@hotmail.com

PROMOTE... Your Product... Your Business... YOURSELF with full colour postcards at competitive prices. For sample pack phone 020 7737 7766 or E-mail: cardencounters@btclick.com

THE GIFT OF SATIRE: a book for all seasons. www.lovetritt.ralphtritt.com

EYE BET

CASINO BLACKJACK. Intellectual property for sale. Lucrative opportunity. Information/prospectus 01983 407769.

EYE DINE

DUCK CONFIT & FOIE GRAS from S.W. France at everyday prices. Confit Direct 01938 553478 – www.confitdirect.co.uk

BILL O'HAGAN is winner of Britain's "Best Sausage Maker" award. That's why his website is called: topsausages.com - visit it.

HEREFORD, WORCESTER & GLOUCESTER? Clear air & pure water. Try the real thing @ Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern - Courtesy & Care Award. Restaurant of the Year Award. Gourmet breaks from £75.00 pppn 2+nts. 01684 540000 - www.colwall.com

EYE DRINK

VINTAGE GAILLAC red wine 1994-2000. Devigne Wines 01938 553478 - www.devignewines.co.uk

EYE ESCAPE

ADVENTURES WITH ALICE – traditional Thames Sailing Barge near Tower Bridge. www.lookingglasscharters.com

TRULY AUSTRALIA, truly different. Tailor-make your own holiday. Visit www.trulyAustralia.com

BEACH HOLIDAYS boring? Chamonix-Mont-Blanc climbing courses. www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk, 07980 310 253.

18 MINUTES to spare? Le Touquet daily flights from Lydd Airport 01797 320000 – www.lyddair.com

TREK IN AMERICA Custom Tours Holidays – www.suntrek.com Tel:0845 330 3730

SELECTED PROPERTIES for like(wise) people and at real prices. www.vergel-alpujarra.com – the Sierra Nevada Park Specialists.

GREECE – CYCLADES ISLANDS. Mykonos (direct flights), Paros, Naxos, Ios, Santorini – plus a dozen quiet ones. SIMPLY SPECIAL. Simply Simon Holidays. ATOL 2578, 020 7373 1933.

THE BEST VILLA in Florida – Allegedly. Beautiful large villa 10 mins from Disney, 20 mins from airport, sleeps 10, own private pool, overlooking lake. From £500pw. 0161 775 7676 or www.sunridgevilla.co.uk

13TH C MANOR HOUSEPARTIES / REUNIONS. Sleeps 24. Tennis/Swimming. Services as required. Idyllic setting Somerset/Devon border. Tel 0870 752 4501 - www.gerbestonemanor.com

DOES YOUR TRAVEL AGENT KNOW THEIR ARSOLI FROM THEIR ELBERT? Unique service: we try providing what you want! 01423 867226. ksales@ryedaletravel.co.uk, ABTA 28716.6

EYE FINANCE

WE INCORPORATE companies UK and Overseas. Tel: 01306 888542. www.formacompany.com/pe

PLEASURE AND INVESTMENT. Autographs and memorabilia. Call Europe's largest dealer – Freephone 0800 731 0852 or www.frasersautographs.com

A PATRON IS REQUIRED for a fun, creative exhibition. Must be creatively-minded, fun loving, wealthy and not opposed to further pecuniary gain! Email: champagnedaze@yahoo.co.uk

EYE FLY

FLIGHT (Hotel, cruise & Car Hire) OPTIONS. ATOL 3793 PROTECTED. Phone or Fax Henry Rogers – 01432 850722.

EYE HELP

SPEECHWRITING BY BRITAIN'S LEADING PROFESSIONAL. Laughter fully guaranteed! Corporate, Social, Political. Strictly confidential. Visa/Mastercard. Call MITCH MURRAY – 01624 622660.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY CLAIMS. Lost out due to bad advice? Why don't you sue your adviser? Contact GORVINS SOLICITORS and we'll do it for you. FREEPHONE 0800 214531 or E-mail enquiries@gorvins.com

LET DOWN BY Sue, Grabbit and Runne? Don't let them get away with it. Professional negligence claims on a no win no fee basis. Freephone 08000 523620 or visit www.proneg.co.uk

AD NAUSEAM? Campaign relief. Go direct to the creatives for great ads. Call Mick on 020 8985 3961.

EYE DESIGN for small businesses. Unique packages to suit your budget. Logos, stationery, websites, brochures. Think size matters? Telephone 0870 2418229 – www.thebusiness.uk.com

HATE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? Let us do it for you. Selection, professional wrapping, delivery of gifts. Free quote. Telephone 07710 598871 or placelift@lineone.net

DIVORCE: £200 + VAT and court fees. Anywhere in the UK. Call The Family Law Dept. at McKay Solicitors on 0113 236 4626

TALENTED ARTIST needs £2000 for wilderness survival course. Will give £4000 worth of pictures. www.keithmcmurray.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION address private, discreet, confidential mail/message-holding service, REGENT STREET. Established 1979. 020 7580 4242. E-mail: enquiry@hold-everything.com - www.hold-everything.com

DEBT PROBLEMS? creditors chasing (you, friends, relatives)? Take off the pressure with a reduced monthly repayment (not a loan offer). 01926 312894/07876 025822 (Eurodebt)

IT CONSULTANT offers discreet and confidential service for parents concerned about their children's Internet habits. 020 7450 6640.

EYE LEARN

ACCREDITED University Degree based present status www.trinityinternationalcu.com (message) 0161 203 4013.

LEARN HYPNOSIS – gain supreme confidence, wealth. Free tape/prospectus 0121 680 0141.

EYE MOVES

MOVING STUFF. Transit couriers and light removals professional, insured. 020 7622 0511.

SMALL MOVES. Friendly Man with Transit, Based N.E. London. Jim, 07974 392 829

EYE HOMES

ALGARVE 2-bed detached villa £87,500; Studio apartment with s/pool £45,500. Please telephone: 0035 3123 52195 info@algarvesunproperties.com

EYE HEAR

JUKEBOX PARTY HIRE. CDs and/or 7" vinyl. Including ROCKOLA BUBBLER. £150+ delivered. 020 8318 2852 – www.wce-jukeboxes.co.uk

EYE READ

www.edgewaysbooks.com – free mag

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND – free search. No obligation to purchase – 01376 562334. E-mail: Jeremy.Dore@tesco.net

FUDEBAKUDO: the penultimate martial art - now available in paperback. www.fudebakudo.com

FREE BOOKSEARCH - No purchase obligation. Twiggers Booksearch - 020 8878 8644. booksearch@twiggers.com

EYE SELL

RICHMOND ART FAIR affordable original art – www.richmondartfair.co.uk

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100 - £3000. Shed not shop – telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

www.housecontents4sale.co.uk House and Contents for sale. Everything must go.

DON'T BE CAUGHT out in a blackout Personal lighting technology from www.wavicle.biz. Ideal Christmas gifts.

RUSSIAN WATCHES catalogue available. Tel (0115) 9827741. www.russianwatches.co.uk

NEED A NEW HI-FI? For anything from DVD to Minidisc, surround sound to CD – nip down to RICHER SOUNDS and pick up the lowest-priced gear in the UK... GUARANTEED! For a free bargain-packed catalogue, call 0845 1 300 200

CUFFLINKS. For a great selection of cufflinks go to: www.cufflinksworld.com For cufflinks with a difference, from £9.99 to £7,500, something for everyone.

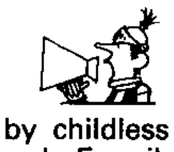
TELEPHONES. ANTIQUE , Fun, Designer. Kiosks. Sold/Bought. www.telephonelines.net. 01242 583699.

8MM CINE converted to UK or USA DVD or video format! High quality telecine conversion, not a film-botched job. Fully boxed with photo quality labels. An excellent and original Christmas or anniversary gift. Limited capacity left guaranteeing before Christmas delivery. www.video2cd.co.uk

MILITARY G10 QUARTZ rugged steal watch. NATO strap. Swiss movement. Battery hatch. 0701 740 1718 - www.mwmdirect.com

LARGE COLLECTION of Private Eye back numbers free to good home. Phone 01249 782075

EYE WANT



SPERM DONOR required by childless couple. Confidentiality assured. E-mail: donorsearch@hotmail.com

EYE CARE

ERECTION CORRECTION TABLETS, cheapest on earth! www.generic-viagras.com

CITY HYPNOTHERAPY CENTRE – Smoking, weight, stress and more 020 7907 4640 – www.cityhypno.com

VIAGRA ALTERNATIVE. Famous Blue Pill available without prescription, as featured in the national press. Only £29.99 for 8 tablets (plus postage). Credit card order line 0871 220 3801.

ERECTION PERFECTION with you by noon tomorrow. 0701 071 8424 – www.viagib.com EUROMED

JUST LISTEN: That's what I do. 40-something Oxbridge male. Sympathetic ears trained over many years. London based. Total discretion guaranteed. Email: ears_engaged@yahoo.co.uk

REAL AID registered charity 1089316 is building a vocational school in Sierra Leone, the poorest country in the world. Please help by donating to our appeal. Barclays: Sort 20-43-49 Account 90077437 or phone 01482 880660.

SEXUAL PROBLEMS? Because we can help, please go to www.4passions.com - and see our wide range of products

EYE JOBS

FIT MALE, 52, seeks job abroad. Boat or house sitting/guarding etc. Good practical skills, flexible honest and discreet. Anything considered for moderate wage. Peter 07836 226719.

DO YOU KNOW a successful businessman / entrepreneur who could do with an ethical make-over and would be up for a challenge? If so, call Janine on 020 8752 6510

EYE JOIN

WAR OF ROSES; Daniel 7; Isiah 14; Mathew 25; Revelation 22. Comments Donations to Christian Democrats Party. Faith, Hope and Nazi Gold. Tel: 07986 471739

EYE LIAISE

LADY ALONE. MALE, 40, needs to live with busy lady, Man Friday willing to work on the domestic front whilst you pursue the world. Your terms and conditions. Southeast town or country. Telehone 07752 071 595. Phone or contact Box no. 69757.

ARABIC SPEAKING MAN I'm a well travelled Norwegian lady of 29 years, who is studying the Arabic language. I would like to spend time with a man of Arabic origin, to practise conversation, go to theatre, have dinner... I am London based, educated, discreet, and with impeccable manners. If you are sincerely interested, please reply with photo to: toobee74@hotmail.com or send to Box no. 69739.

RELUCTANT LOVER seeks reluctant mistress. He, married, tall, 59. Interests include arts, psychology, philosophy. She, reluctantly passionate or passionately reluctant. London based. reluctantlover2000@yahoo.co.uk

HANDSOME CITY BANKER, 43. Married, slim, 6ft., seeks younger, bored, slim and attractive, intelligent female (lawyer?), looking for a long-term, extra curricular romance, or simply occasional flirtatious lunches. Photo appreciated. Email: salmo3@compuserve.com

PSYCHOTHERAPY STUDENT, (35), doing part-time MA, with management background in music, design and architecture, needs liaising / coordinating role to dovetail with study. Charismatic, versatile and forward-thinking. Call Adam 07796 088956.

FUN LOVING, successsful male, 45, seeks bosom buddy for discreet afternoon frolics. Age and status unimportant, but photo appreciated. Box 0190.

ADVENTURER, 50, searching for cabin girl to rock boat on covert afternoon missions down Thames before returning to his usual berth. artofit@btconnect.com

EYE LOVE

AMIABLE MALE, 59, occasionally assertive, many interests including music and countryside, seeks pleasant, intelligent lady for affectionate LTR, London/Essex. Box number 69548

EYE NEED

PLEASE HELP David defeat Goliath. Any amount toward 30k very grateful. Abbey National sort 09 01 26, account 47585057 Box no. 69470.

FEMALE, 21-35. Loving childless couple seek egg donor/sharer. Contact hospital for information. 0800 849 7036. Quote reference X0231218.

DROWNING IN DEBT and despair, now clutching at straws, any help appreciated. Nationwide 07:01:16 14094974.

£20,000 DEBTS. Chrones sufferer, recently divorced, employment contract ending, any cash gratefully received. A/N 458 19987, S/C 09 - 01 - 26

GIVE A DOG A GARDEN and his disabled boss a bungalow. Social housing has failed us both. Nat West 60-21-41, A/n 242 554 32

POOR, HARDWORKING, DEPRESSED girl, many rescued animals, desperately needs cash for home & debts. Anything appreciated. Please! 40-47-73, 71624083.

FAILING MARRIAGE, exacerbated by mounting debts. Still in love but it ain't working. Maybe it still could? Yorkshire bank 05-09-72 44837995.

EYE SEEK

CAPITAINE thinking now of Sundown. Love Sous-Fifre

EYE PROTECTION

THE DEFENDER. Freelance minder / independent security guard. Tel: 07986 808 990. (Message facility available.)

EYE WORK

FREELANCE CONTRIBUTORS wanted for new arty-intellectual magazine. Experienced journalist/writers and literate academics preferred, newcomers considered. Articles commissioned, unsolicited submissions welcome, payment by arrangement. Wide range of subject matter considered, also original illustrations and photographs. CVs and/or submissions to info@sumandsubstance.co.uk

EYE CONTACT

ASIAN INTRODUCTIONS Guaranteed. Suman Marriage Bureau – Established 1972. (ABIA). 0208 571 5145. www.suman-online.com

NATURAL FRIENDS, where relationships just click. Free brochure 0800 281 933 www.natural-friends.com

MEET ORIENTAL ladies in Britain for love, romance, etc. Tel 0161 9983 669 / 0788 163 0007 – e-mail tararainbow @yahoo.co.uk

SPEED DATING – the new way to meet other professionals. 20+ three minute face-to face dates in 1 night Telephone 08702 430 935 www.speeddater.co.uk

EVERGREEN; Alternative to Dating Agencies/clubs. 01992 632250. www.evergreenagency.co.uk

ATTRACTIVE? Don't be alone. Call Attractive Partners on 08702 424212 – www.attractivepartners.co.uk

REGULAR ADULT PARTIES daytime & evenings, luxury Central London locations, couples & singles welcome, call Gordon 07971 298111 limelight_club@lycos.com

THAI CONNECTION – Thailand's oldest agency. Over 650 marriages. Videos, brochure: 01582 481725.

HANDSOME, FIT, intelligent, kind, considerate, witty and busy business executive seeks special relationship with nonsmoking woman with similar attributes who lives in London, Bucks or Berks. Natural elegance in public forays should seamlessly combine with desire to live out fantasies behind closed doors. If qualified and sincerely interested, please reply with photo to BramhamGardens@aol.com.

LOVER, LITHE, in touch, seeks mature lady of unfulfilled circumstances. South/South West. Reply Box no. 69735.

FANTASY LINE: call 09099 100 146 – www.fantasyphone.co.uk – 75p per min, PO Box 189 CA4 8GW

FLIRT LINE: call 09099 100 143 – www.phoneflirts.co.uk – 75p per min, PO Box 182, CT11 8GT.

AMUSING, CULTURED Englishman, young 49, demanding but kind, seeks beautiful intelligent curvaceous mistress, retroglamorous (pearls, silk stockings, corsets) who enjoys traditional luxury. gallienus@btinternet.com

DATING LINE 0906 752 6299*, Live 1-2-1 Chat 0906 734 3206**, Gay Chat 0906 952 6006*, Adult Contact Ads 0905 235 5819**, Live Psychic 0906 734 3707** http://www.harmonypartners.co.uk – PO Box 17,Ashford,TN23 7YQ. Calls cost *75p/**£1/min from BT Landlines.

LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES? Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

EURO-ORIENTAL Introductions. Meet your perfect Oriental partner in the UK, for love, romance or marriage. Register free! 01442-386102 info@littlefish-intl.com - http://littlefish-intl.com

ADDITIONS. 'Attached' discreet loving agency for married people. 020 8905 3304, 020 8958 9657

EYE NOVELTIES

BUTTON BADGES MADE. Any design any quantity, call Express badges 01634 421403 07092 123857

PRIVATE EYE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

£2.50 PER WORD VAT inclusive £25.00 minimum charge

Colour £12.00 Box Number £12.00

Fax: 020 7379 7118 Email: private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk

or call John Eaton on **020 7240 9129**

PRIVATE EYE

McMillan-Scott, 10 Savoy Street, London WC2E 7HR

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone number.....

Post your advert with credit card details, cheque or postal order.

Card number..... Valid from date.....

Expiry date..... Issue number (Switch).....

Box number required ☐

Continue on separate sheet if necessary

Save Over £32 on Twelve Superb Wines

The World Dozen only £39.99+p&p

The Warehouse Wine Co, the fastest growing wine club in the UK, is delighted to offer you this unbeatable deal on superb quality wines.

The reds include a top-class Rioja full of dark plum flavours, followed by a spicy Australian Shiraz and a rich Reserve Merlot from California. Amongst the whites are an upfront Australian, a creamy Chardonnay and a crisp and refreshing Sauvignon.

Buy the World Dozen for just £39.99 (+£4.99p&p) and save over £32 on our normal selling price of £72.88!!

Our mission is simply to bring down the price of good wine

the warehouse wine co.

Call us today quoting WW1032

0870 787 1037

(MON-FRI 9.00am-7.00pm - SAT/SUN 10.00am-6.00pm)

The Warehouse Wine Co. Limited, FREEPOST NWW7411A, Preston PR2 5BR. Offer ends 31/12/03.

All wines supplied by The Warehouse Wine Co. Limited. Registered Office Unit 39, Roman Way Industrial Estate, Longridge Road, Ribbleton, Preston PR2 5BD. Company Registration No. 3896259. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers. All offers subject to availability and we reserve the right to substitute goods of equal or higher value in the event of supply difficulties. UK delivery only, excluding Channel Islands. Delivery is usually within 7 working days. If you have not received your wine within 14 days please contact us. If you do not indicate which introductory case you would like to receive we will send you the mixed case. All savings quoted are based against our usual selling prices. It is a legal requirement for you to be 18 or over to purchase alcohol. E&OE. If you do not wish to receive offers or services carefully selected by The Warehouse Wine Co. Ltd, please write or call the number above.

main image: Hulton/Archive/Getty Images

soho
theatre + writers' centre
21 Dean Street London W1

LATE BAR

27 October - 15 November

alan rusbridger jimmy carr pure poetry **deafinitely theatre** yellow earth logan murray **script factory scene** gary le strange polly toynbee **vanessa richards** **host universal** tariq ali **howard jacobson** zinnie harris polka **demetri martin** angie le mar frantic assembly **ian hislop** richard ingrams nick newman **michael billington** **simon singh** theatre and beyond **lloyd newson** **tim fountain** daniel kitson **tall stories** talawa richard wilson **john oliver** **david hare** directors guild **dr bunhead** **tom piper** justin bond **bette bourne** **chris green** allison pearson **toby whithouse...**

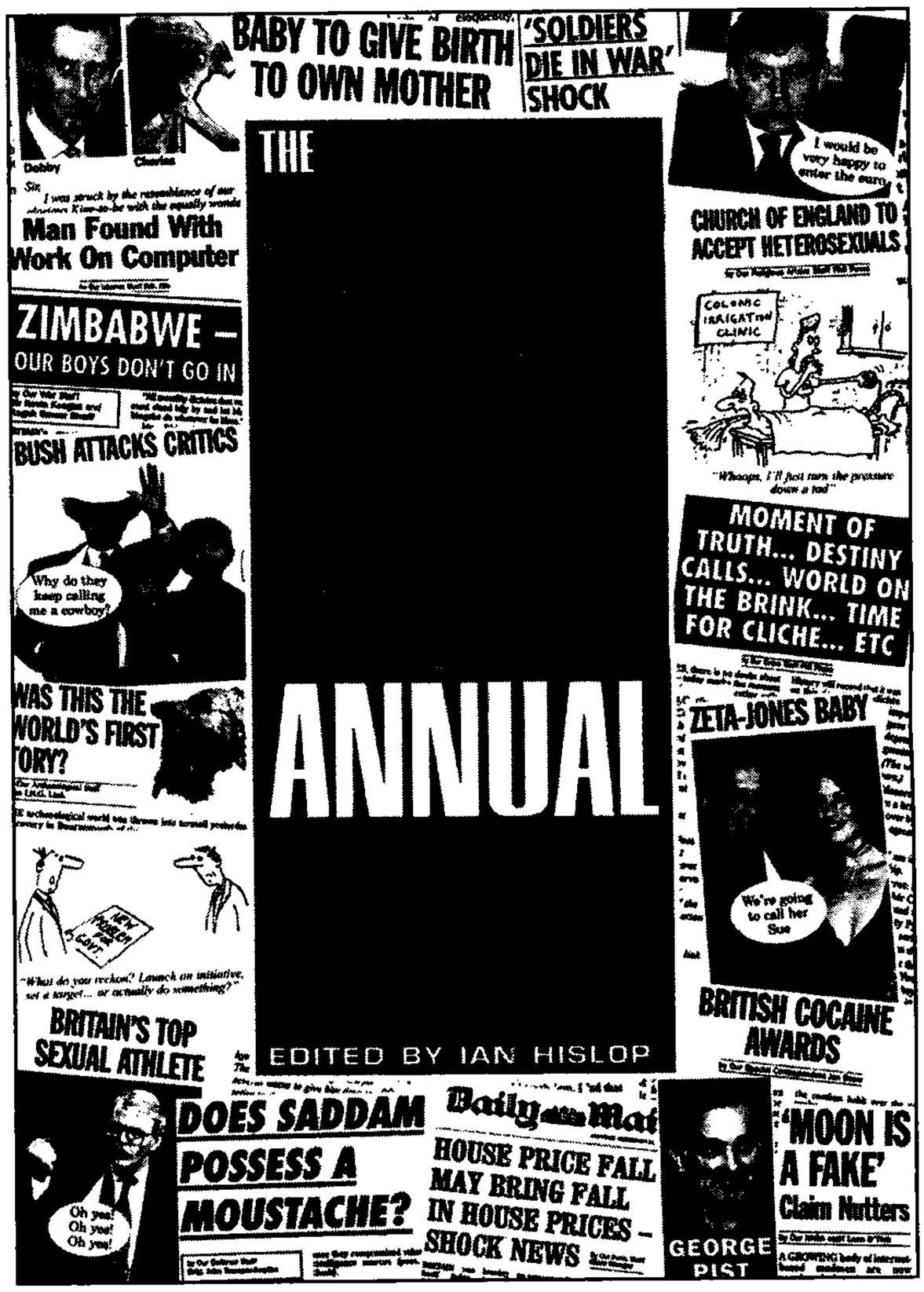
Time Out

Tickets + Information **020 7478 0100**

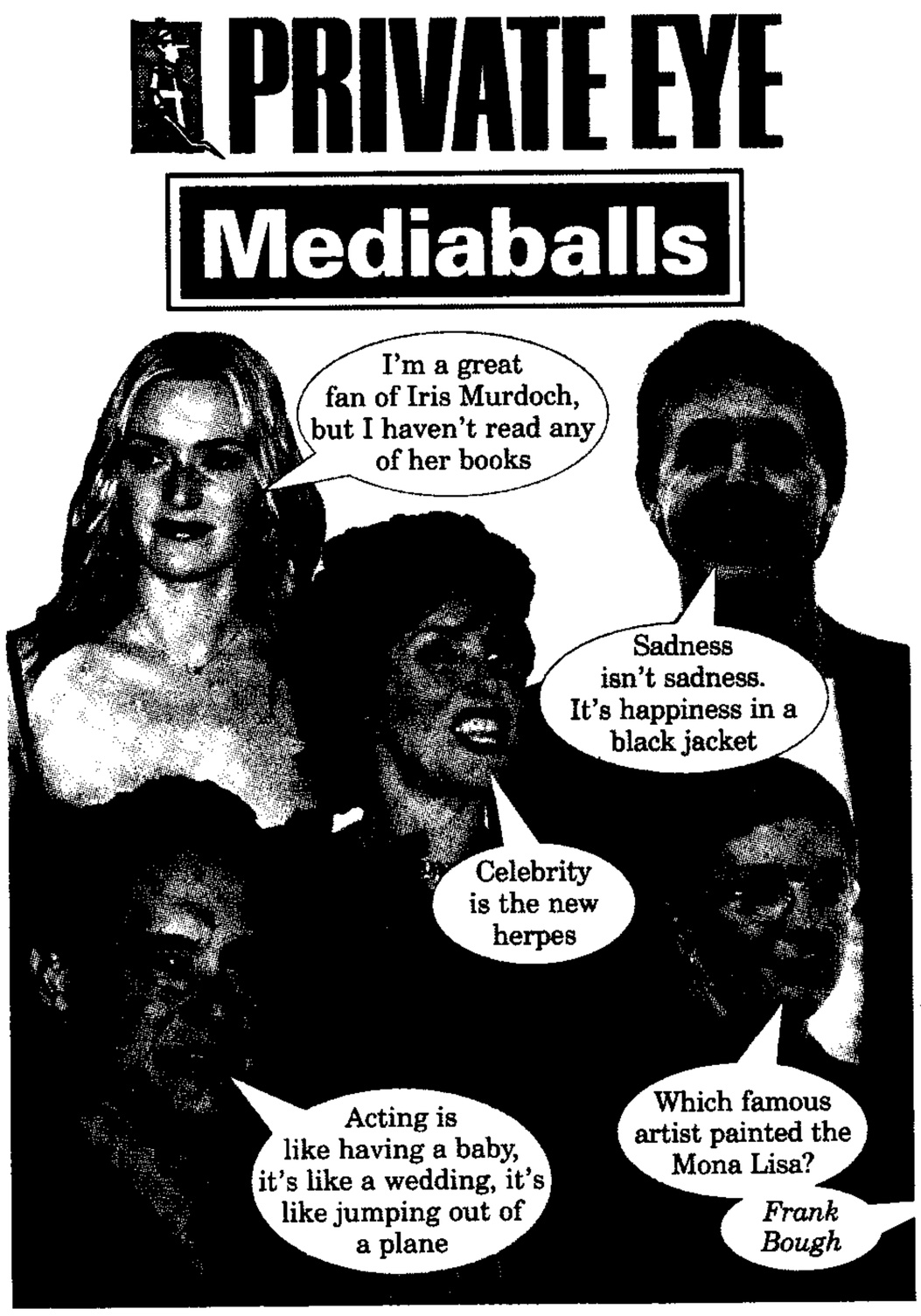
www.sohotheatre.com

Supported by **Bloomberg**

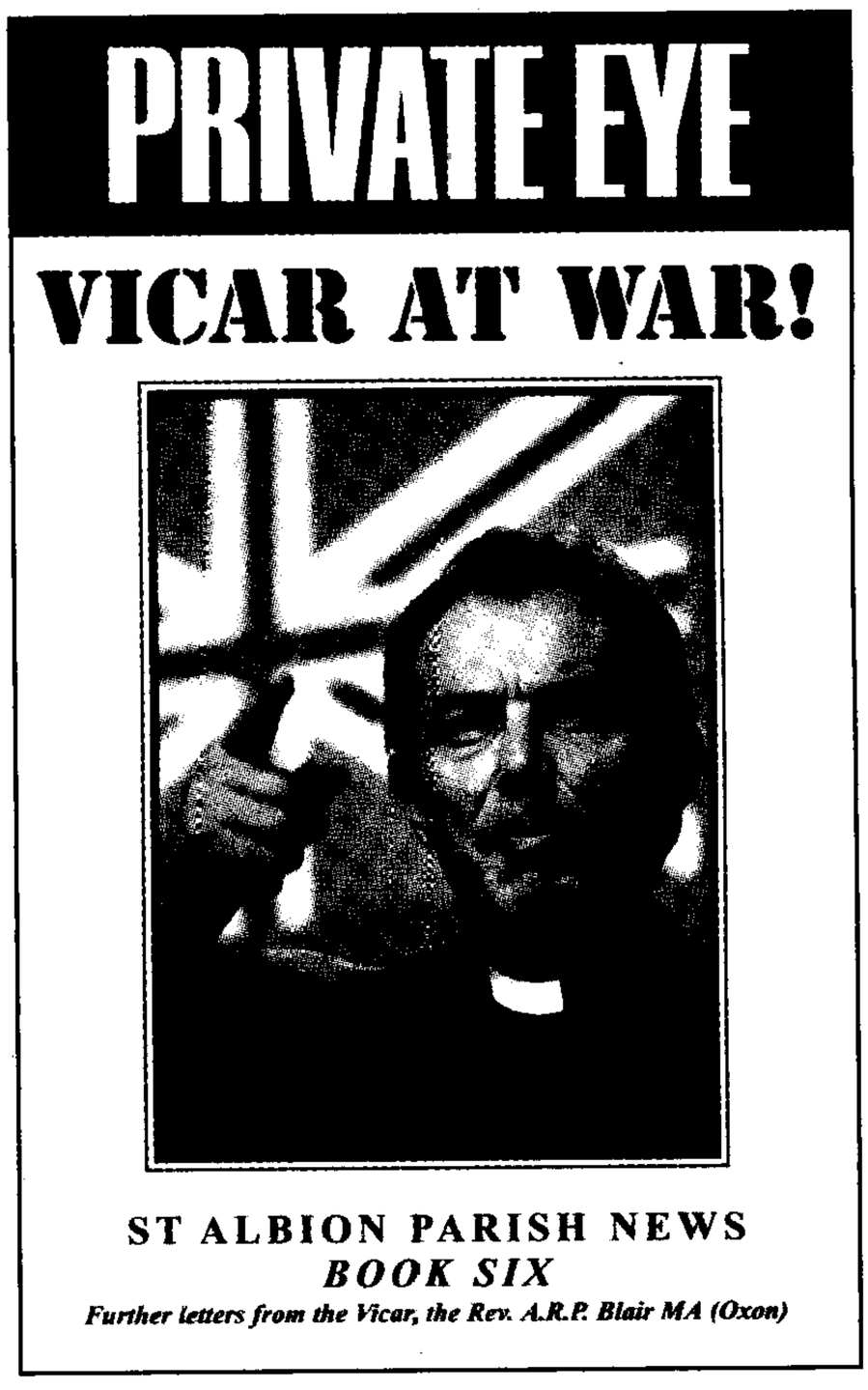
New Books for Christmas from PRIVATE EYE


BABY TO GIVE BIRTH TO OWN MOTHER
'SOLDIERS DIE IN WAR' SHOCK
I would be very happy to enter the army
Man Found With Work On Computer
THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND TO ACCEPT HETEROSEXUALS
ZIMBABWE – OUR BOYS DON'T GO IN
BUSH ATTACKS CRITICS
Why do they keep calling me a cowboy?
MOMENT OF TRUTH... DESTINY CALLS... WORLD ON THE BRINK... TIME FOR CLICHE... ETC
WAS THIS THE WORLD'S FIRST TORY?
ZETA-JONES BABY
We're going to call her Sue
ANNUAL
BRITAIN'S TOP SEXUAL ATHLETE
EDITED BY IAN HISLOP
BRITISH COCAINE AWARDS
DOES SADDAM POSSESS A MOUSTACHE?
Oh yes! Oh yes! Oh yes!
Daily Mail
HOUSE PRICE FALL MAY BRING FALL IN HOUSE PRICES – SHOCK NEWS
'MOON IS A FAKE' Claim Nutters
GEORGE PIST

PRIVATE EYE ANNUAL 2003 – bringing together all the best from the Private Eye year.
£9.99


PRIVATE EYE
Mediaballs
I'm a great fan of Iris Murdoch, but I haven't read any of her books
Sadness isn't sadness. It's happiness in a black jacket
Celebrity is the new herpes
Acting is like having a baby, it's like a wedding, it's like jumping out of a plane
Which famous artist painted the Mona Lisa?
Frank Bough

The brand new MEDIABALLS – bloomers and gaffes from those who should really know better.
£3.99



VICAR AT WAR!
St Albion Parish News Book 6 – our beloved leader embattled but unbowed.
£4.99

ON SALE NOW

Also available online from www.private-eye.co.uk

Not all beasts hibernate in winter.

The real test of a soft-top isn't summer. It's winter. And with a triple-layered roof, a sophisticated climate control system and a choice of turbocharged engines, the new Saab 9-3 Convertible is the ultimate all-weather car. Not one that slumbers in your garage all winter. To find your nearest dealer call 0845 300 93 95 or visit www.saab.co.uk

The new Saab 9-3 Convertible. From £23,895 on the road.

Saab 93

move your mind

OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION IN MPG (LITRES/100KM): URBAN 24.1 (11.7), EXTRA URBAN 42.2 (6.7), COMBINED 32.8 (8.6). CO_2 EMISSIONS 206 G/KM. ALL FIGURES FOR SAAB 9-3 VECTOR 1.8t SPORT CONVERTIBLE FITTED WITH MANUAL GEARBOX. Model shown: 9-3 Vector 1.8t Sport Convertible, £25,895 on the road. Price excludes upgraded alloy wheels and CargoWing accessory (available Spring 2004).

9 770032 888105 42>